GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

REPORT

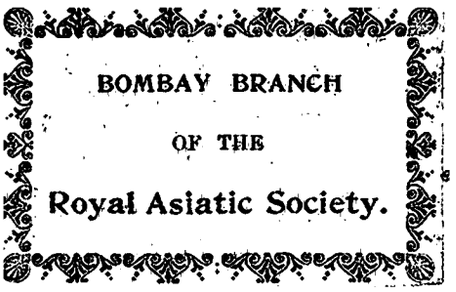
ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL

DURING

1919-20.

00132997



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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL,

1919-20.

CALCUTTA :

THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT

1922.

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MAP.

MAP OF BENGAL.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1919-20.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.*

General Features.

Reforms.—The introduction of the Reforms Scheme was the outstanding item of interest of the year under review. The Government of India Act was passed at the end of 1919, and the new form of Government was introduced on the 3rd January 1921. The year 1920 was devoted to the framing of rules under the Act and to the election of the new Legislative Councils. In Bengal the Legislative Council will consist of 139 members. The interest shown in the elections varied very greatly. Out of five seats on the Council of State, four were contested. In the two non-Muhammadan constituencies, with a total electorate of 1,332, 927 votes were recorded representing 646 voters; but in the two Muhammadan constituencies only 250 electors voted out of 678, or 36·8 per cent. There were fourteen constituencies for the Legislative Assembly and only three of them were uncontested. The percentage of voting was best for the election of a representative of Indian Commerce, where 95·2 per cent. of the electors recorded their votes; but the constituency is a small one and contains only 147 electors. The six non-Muhammadan constituencies were by far the largest, with a total electorate of 128,604, of whom 34,466, or 26·8 per cent., voted. Though the percentage is small, the size of the constituencies and the area over which they are spread, which made canvassing very difficult, are to be remembered. The figures for the three Muhammadan rural constituencies were less satisfactory, only 8,015 electors out of 39,946 having recorded their votes. In the Land-holders' constituency, 296 voted out of 517. For the Bengal Legislative Council there were 94 constituencies, returning 113 members. Twenty-three of these sent in unopposed returns of 30 members. In the 71 contested constituencies there were 892,591 electors in all, of whom 262,030, or 30 per cent., voted. With the exception of the very small constituencies (Indian Commerce and Land-holders), the voting was best in the Calcutta University constituency, in which 4,084 votes were recorded out of 6,144. There were spirited contests for the European constituencies, in which 49·1 per cent. of

* The General Summary of the Administration report for 1918-19 was brought down to the end of 1919 with the object of minimising the interval between the latest occurrences described in it and the date of its publication and the present summary carries it on to the end of 1920 with the same object.

the electors voted. The 36 non-Muhammadan contested constituencies, with a total electorate of 482,496, recorded 166,630 votes, quite a satisfactory result in view of the size of the electoral roll and the large area concerned. In the 29 contested Muhammadan constituencies the poll was not so good, but of an electorate of 397,170, 88,448, or 22·2 per cent., voted. The new Council consists at present of 20 officials (four *ex-officio*), of whom 16 are Europeans and 4 Indians, and 119 non-officials, including the 3 Ministers, comprising 16 Europeans, 40 Muhammadans, 61 non-Muhammadans, and 2 Anglo-Indians.

2. **Non-co-operation.**—As elsewhere, the non-co-operation movement in Bengal manifested itself during 1920. It began in February, with a conference held by the Bengal Khalifat Committee in the Calcutta Town Hall. The attendance was between 5,000 and 6,000, chiefly Muhammadans. The meetings were orderly, but the resolutions passed were strongly worded and showed a desire to sever all connection with the British Government. The main tenets of the non-co-operation movement were accepted and it was decided to hold a *hartal* on the 19th March 1920, and to send a telegram to the Viceroy and the King-Emperor declaring that the Moslems of India would find it impossible "to keep their secular loyalty intact," unless their demands regarding the Khalifat were accepted. Before the 19th March, however, somewhat milder counsels prevailed. The completeness of the *hartal* was modified in the cases of coolies and mill-hands, and a certain section of the leaders decided to tone down the wording of the telegram. Generally speaking, the *hartal* was only a qualified success. In the mufassal the day passed off quietly and the telegram, as originally worded, was only despatched from five districts. In Calcutta there was more activity, and only three of the telegrams despatched were in the modified wording, but the meetings were orderly and there was no disturbance. A second *hartal* was declared for the 1st August 1920, but this was a failure, and there was considerable divergence of opinion at the various centres as to the policy of non-co-operation. Early in September the special meeting of Congress was held in Calcutta, when the principal plank was non-co-operation. The Bengal extremist leaders were mostly in favour of a modification of Gandhi's non-co-operation resolution, but they were outvoted by a little more than two to one, and the resolution was carried. The movement has, however, gathered very little strength in the actual observance of the boycott. Some intending candidates refused to stand for the Legislative Council, and in one case a title was resigned, but the general feeling of the people has been apathetic. With the exception of the Muhammadan newspapers, the tone of the press has been moderately restrained, though the stringency with which the Press Act was enforced was relaxed at the beginning of the year, and out of 19

newspapers and 87 presses, which had been required to give security, the deposits of 15 newspapers and 79 presses were refunded.

3. **Economic position.**—The high prices which prevailed in 1919 showed no signs of abatement until the end of 1920, though the extraordinary rates at which food-stuffs, particularly rice, were selling in the latter half of August and the beginning of September 1919 did not recur. During the last three months there was a fall in the price of rice, but the rate is still high. On the whole, however, there was less economic distress during 1920 than in the previous year. This may be attributed to two main causes, namely, more effective food control and general rise of wages. In Bengal, as elsewhere, food control, which was tentative and beset with difficulties at first, became more efficient as experience was gained, and there is no doubt that the absence of violent fluctuations of price was due to the care and foresight with which the situation was watched and controlled. The import of Burma rice into Bengal was not heavy, but it had the effect of checking any alarming increase in the price of the local supply. The import was re-opened in June 1920, with an order for 22,500 tons, and by the end of July the demand had fallen off considerably and there was a slight drop in the price of Bengal rice, which otherwise would almost certainly have soared. Wages, under normal conditions, follow prices; but there is a period of adjustment during which wage-earners are faced with very real hardships. This period of difficulty spread over the greater part of 1919, but during 1920 the adjustment was, for the most part, effected, and the condition of the wage-earning classes is now more satisfactory. There is every sign, too, that the cultivators have benefited by the rise of prices. Everywhere there has been a tendency on their part to hold on to their stocks, and profiteering by middlemen has been less. The agricultural outlook during 1920 was, on the whole, satisfactory. Following on the bad season of 1918-19, which resulted in serious depletion of stocks, the moderately good crops of 1919-20 and favourable prospects for 1920-21, though neither can be described as bumper years, are gradually restoring the situation and a further fall of prices is anticipated. It is unlikely, however, that the pre-war level will be reached, as India must necessarily feel the effect, though in a less degree than most European countries, of the general depreciation of monetary standards.

Legislation.

4. **Bengal Acts.**—The following Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1920:—

The Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act.

The Eastern Frontier Rifles (Bengal Battalion) Act.

The Calcutta Rent Act.

The Calcutta Pilots (Amendment) Act.

The Bengal Alluvial Lands Act.
The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act.
The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act.
The Indian Red Cross Society (Bengal Branch) Act.

5. **Cruelty to Animals Act.**—The Cruelty to Animals Act in the first place amends and consolidates five separate enactments on the subject, under which the law had become involved and difficult of administration; and in the second place it strengthens and adds to the existing legislation in certain matters to which attention was called by a committee which was appointed in 1915. The chief of these relates to the matter of overloading, in respect of which the law is defective at present. The Act contemplates the establishment of a system of weigh-bridges at various convenient centres, to which overloaded carts would be taken and the excess load would be removed. The strengthening of the sections which deal with the working of unfit animals is another point to which the committee drew special attention, and which has been provided for in the Act; a provision has also been added (section 25) for the destruction of suffering animals under the order of a Magistrate, or the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Police. The law for the prevention of the objectionable practice of *phuka* has been made more stringent, and the liability of owners and contractors in respect of the driving of unfit animals has been defined.

6. **Calcutta Rent Act.**—The Calcutta Rent Act evoked much discussion, both in the Council and in the press, but on the whole its reception was favourable. It prescribes a standard rent for all premises in Calcutta, which (generally speaking) is 10 per cent. above the rent paid on the 1st November 1918—a date selected as being prior to the abnormal rise of rents, due to shortage of accommodation and land speculation, which necessitated the passing of emergency legislation to protect the public. No increase above the standard rent is recoverable and no tenant can be ejected as long as he pays the standard rent. The Act, which follows the general lines of similar legislation in Bombay and Rangoon, applies to all premises let for residential purposes or for shops or offices, and includes hotels and boarding-houses. It will be in force for three years, and does not apply to premises erected after, or in course of erection at the time when, it came into force. A Controller of Rents was appointed immediately after the passing of the Act, and over a thousand applications for the fixation of a standard rent have been dealt with by him.

7. **The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act.**—The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act consolidates and amends earlier legislation and provides a procedure for the execution of drainage and other sanitary improvement schemes in agricultural areas.

8. **The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act.**—The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act provides for the appointment of a whole-time salaried Chairman of the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta, in place of the present arrangement under which the Chairman (who is unpaid) is usually the Member of the Board of Revenue and the executive work is done by the Vice-Chairman. The latter will be replaced by a Deputy Chairman, who will be the chief executive officer under the Chairman.

The other legislation of the year calls for no special comment, but the extension of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act to Narayanganj deserves notice. This Act was extended on the application of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce to provide means of dealing with fraudulent jute assorters and other skilled labourers who were in the habit of taking advances, usually under different names, from several firms, with no intention of fulfilling their contracts.

Provincial Finance.

9. **Financial position.**—The financial position of the Presidency under the reforms scheme has been the subject of much discussion during the year under review. In 1919 an attempt was made to arrive at a normal scale of revenue and expenditure for all provinces on the basis of the Montagu-Chelmsford report. In Bengal this showed a considerable deficit. Early in 1920 a committee under the presidency of Lord Meston was appointed to consider the whole question of imperial and provincial finance. This committee visited Calcutta and discussed the financial position of Bengal under the reforms scheme, and eventually recommended that the revenue from general stamps, estimated at Rs. 85 lakhs a year, should be provincialized. In return for this additional income the initial contribution of this Presidency towards the central revenues was fixed at Rs. 63 lakhs a year, but it was provided that the percentage of the total contribution from all provinces which Bengal should be required to pay in the future should be gradually raised to 19 per cent., the highest of all the contributing provinces. The Joint Parliamentary Committee dealing with the rules under the Government of India Act made a further concession by the grant of (roughly) one-fourth of the increase of income-tax above the standard of 1920-21, and added a condition that the provincial contribution towards central revenues should never exceed the initial sum of Rs. 63 lakhs. The concession relating to income-tax is not likely to benefit Bengal at least for the next few years, as the income-tax demand for 1920-21 is exceptionally high and there is no early prospect of an increase. As against the very meagre increase of revenue which is now placed at the disposal of Bengal, the provincial expenditure has been forced up on all sides. Salaries and establishment have risen alarmingly, but the economic pressure is so great that it is impossible to resist the increase; and at the same time the development of the province has

imposed further burdens, which are equally unavoidable, upon the exchequer. Fortunately, owing to war economies and an increasing revenue under the former financial settlement, the provincial balance is large and amounted to Rs. 4,19 lakhs on the 1st April 1920; but the budget of 1920-21, the last year under the old regime, showed a deficit of Rs. 63½ lakhs, and with the new charges imposed by the reforms the prospect for next year causes serious concern.

Commerce.

10. **Exports and Imports.**—The trade statistics of the Presidency for 1920 are remarkable. Imports rose by Rs. 49·92 crores, as compared with 1919, but exports fell by Rs. 4·62 crores, resulting in a total trade increase of Rs. 38·3 crores, or nearly 18½ per cent. The excess of exports over imports, which was Rs. 55 crores, or 72 per cent., in 1919, fell to Rs. 7⅓ crores, or 7 per cent., in 1920. The coasting trade remained stationary. The import and export of treasure increased largely on the removal of the former restrictions. Gold showed an increase of Rs. 203 lakhs in imports and Rs. 111 lakhs in exports, and silver Rs. 34·6 lakhs in imports and Rs. 151·7 lakhs in exports. The excess of treasure imports over exports, which was Rs. 132 lakhs in 1919, fell to Rs. 106 lakhs in 1920. Turning to the main items of import, there have been remarkable increases in metals (mostly iron and steel), Rs. 6·03 crores, hardware Rs. 1·01 crores, machinery Rs. 3·28 crores, motor cars Rs. 2·33 crores, and railway materials Rs. 3·17 crores. Cotton goods, including twist and yarn, also show a great advance in quantity and still greater in value, in which the increase—Rs. 16·44 crores—is nearly 76 per cent. Sugar and mineral oil are the only imports which show a decrease. Under exports, hides and skins fell 38 per cent. in quantity and no less than Rs. 7·48 crores, or 60 per cent., in value. Tea and seeds also show a heavy decrease; the latter fell from Rs. 7·01 crores to Rs. 3·67 crores, and the former from Rs. 17 crores to Rs. 10·19 crores. The fall in raw jute was more than counter-balanced by jute manufactures, which rose by Rs. 10·48 crores. The large increase which occurred in the export of "country sugar" (mostly *ghur* and jaggery) and in the re-export of Java sugar, explains the rise in the price of sugar in India. The frontier trade of Bengal with Sikkim, Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan, continued to expand and the total value—Rs. 202 lakhs—in 1919-20 was the highest yet recorded.

11. **Exchange.**—With a drop from 72 per cent. to 7 per cent. in the excess of exports over imports between 1919 and 1920, it is not surprising that there were violent fluctuations in exchange. The year opened with the rupee standing at about 2*s.* 4*d.*, but in February it rose sharply to nearly 2*s.* 10*d.* In March it was at 2*s.* 4*d.* again, and it remained at about that level throughout that month and April, but from May onwards (with the exception of a fitful rally in June) it fell steadily, until it stood at about

1*s.* 5*d.* at the end of the year. The rise of the rupee early in the year and the anticipation that it would be permanently fixed at not less than two shillings, as recommended by the Currency Commission, led to heavy over-buying by Indian importers, and imports rose from Rs. 76½ crores to Rs. 119½ crores, or over 56 per cent. The heavy fall in exchange which resulted caused enormous losses. Some of the buyers refused to take delivery and the import trade has been seriously disorganized. In cotton piece-goods in particular, the import of which increased from Rs. 20·81 crores in 1919 to Rs. 35·07 crores, the losses have been very heavy, though, owing to previous depletion, the stocks held are not abnormally large. The Calcutta piece-goods buyers have not repudiated their contracts on the ground of the fall in exchange, as has been done in Bombay and Karachi.

12. **Port of Calcutta.**—The year 1920 was characterized by a marked revival in the export coal trade and in the miscellaneous import trade, particularly iron and steel. There has also been a large increase in the total tonnage visiting the port. The following figures show the nett tonnage and coal exports for the last two financial years and for the calendar year 1920:—

	Financial year 1918-19.	Financial year 1919-20.	Calendar year 1920.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Nett tonnage	2,292,462	2,941,846	3,810,606
Coal exports	1,333,285	2,264,976	2,898,508

The removal of the restrictions on the export of coal, combined with the abundance of tonnage, led to some congestion in the port during April and May; and when the labour difficulties at the docks common during these months had been overcome, they were followed by a reduction in the raisings of coal at the collieries; but in spite of these difficulties, the total export was not far short of pre-war figures. Jetty imports, though still below pre-war figures, were characterized by an unprecedented proportion of heavy iron and steel, which made rapid work difficult. There were no special circumstances encountered in the other branches of trade conducted over the Commissioners' wharves, but there was a marked revival in the far eastern trade, which is handled in the stream by means of boats. A number of minor improvements were carried out during the year and fairly satisfactory progress was made with the extension schemes, the chief of which are additional berths in Garden Reach and the construction of the new King George's Dock.

Industries.

13. **Industries.**—The constitution of a regular Department of Industries in Bengal took place during the year under review. The present Director of Industries was confirmed in his appointment on the 1st January 1920 and at once set to work to build up an organization on the lines proposed in the

report of the Indian Industrial Commission. Formerly, though the appointment of Director of Industries existed, it was combined with that of Controller of Munitions, and the work of the latter office occupied the greater part of his time. The main work of the department, as now constituted, falls under the "transferred" administration and comprises the development of industries and technical and industrial education. On the "reserved" side come factory, boiler and electricity inspection, the prevention of smoke nuisance and the investigation of labour problems. In addition to the officers formerly engaged on this work and the technical education inspection staff, which have been transferred from the departments which formerly controlled them, a Deputy Director of Industries, an Industrial Intelligence Officer and five Circle Officers have been appointed. The Industrial Intelligence Officer is chiefly concerned with the study of labour problems and, in particular, with the collection of information relating to strikes. The Circle Officers have been posted to the five divisions of the Presidency and they will form the nucleus of the local organization of the department. An Advisory Board of business men has been appointed to assist the Director on main questions of industrial development throughout the province. This organization was not completed till towards the end of the year and the progress made by the department cannot be expected to be great during this period. Some advance has, however, been made in industrial research, the encouragement of small industries, the collection of information, assistance in obtaining raw materials and coal, and local demonstration of improved machinery and processes.

14. **Research Tannery.**—Under industrial research the work of the Calcutta Research Tannery is the most important. Many processes of tanning involve chemical and bacterial action, which are greatly affected by climatic conditions. Careful research is, therefore, necessary before western methods of tanning can be successfully introduced in India, which, as is well known, is one of the largest hide and skin producing countries in the world. And laboratory investigations alone are not sufficient; practical tanning experiments on a comparatively large scale are also necessary. The Calcutta Research Tannery has been established with the object of carrying out this work. Its operations began in 1919, but it was not till 1920 that the machinery and equipment was installed and the staff appointed on sufficient scale to produce any effective results. Its chief investigations have been directed towards the production and improvement of tanning materials, the action of chrome liquors in the Indian climate, the suitability of the water in various parts of India for tanning processes, the analysis of leather, and specific enquiries from the tanning trade. In the matter of the production of tanning materials important and useful

investigations were made by Dr. Pilgrim, the tannin expert to the Government of India, as to the tannin content of the mangroves of the Sunderbans. His report indicates that the tannin content is in some cases fairly high and, if the distribution is found to be good, the Sunderbans should form a fruitful source of tanning material.

15. **Weaving.**—In the development of small industries the chief attention of the department has been turned to hand-loom weaving. Improvements have been made in the fly-shuttle slay, the fly-shuttle loom and the pit-loom. These have been extensively demonstrated to the weavers of Bengal, and in many places they have been taken up enthusiastically and "repeat" orders are coming in fast. Other improvements consist of a "dobby" and an inexpensive take-up motion for hand-looms, but these have only just reached the demonstration stage.

16. **Technical and Industrial Education.**—The control of technical and industrial education was transferred to the Department of Industries during the year under review. The principal feature of the year was the appointment of a committee chiefly consisting of the proprietors of large engineering workshops in and around Calcutta under the presidency of Sir Rajendra Nath Mukerjee, to consider the question of the establishment of a fully-equipped technical school in Calcutta. The committee worked out all the main details of the scheme, chose the site for the school, which is now being acquired at a cost of about Rs. 8½ lakhs, and approved plans for the building and proposals for the general lines of instruction and the organization of the staff. The Public Works Department are about to commence the building, and it is hoped that the school will be opened early in 1922. The question of the improvement of mining education in the coalfields, which has been under discussion for a long time, has now been decided, and the mining interests have agreed to make a contribution towards the cost which, with the aid of a Government grant, will be sufficient to finance the scheme.

17. **Joint stock companies.**—Company promoting was almost as active in 1920 as in 1919, the year of the industrial boom. During the financial year 1919-20 no less than 514 companies were registered, a number greatly in excess of that of any former year; but during the last nine months of 1920 the decrease was much less than would have been expected, in view of the general slump in industrial shares. Three hundred and fifty-six companies were incorporated between the 1st April and the 31st December 1920—an average of nearly 40 companies a month against 43 for the previous year. The impulse which has recently been given to *swadeshi* enterprise may be gauged from the fact that 301 of these 356 companies are mainly under Indian management. The figures of authorized capital for 1920 are considerably lower than those of 1919-20. In the latter year the total new

capital was 107¼ crores whereas during the last nine months of 1920 it was only 30 crores.

18. **Labour.**—A large proportion of the labour of Bengal is supplied from other provinces. These immigrants still maintain their foreign domicile and live near their work without their families. They work in two main groups, namely, the major group which lines the bank of the Hooghly in the vicinity of Calcutta and is employed chiefly in jute mills, and the minor group which works in the coal-fields of the Burdwan district. Besides these two main groups, there are the tea-garden labourers and the employees of the railways and the inland steamers. None of these labour elements are organized into unions, but they show remarkable power of combined action when their work brings them together and their interests are the same. Although labour has been plentiful during 1920, there has been an unprecedented number of strikes. Practically all of these arose from demands for higher wages. They began with isolated stoppages of work in the Calcutta area, and the success which attended these led others to follow the example. The employees of the jute mills had, before January 1920, received three successive increases of wages, amounting in all to about 40 per cent., and during the latter half of the year a three-day strike resulted in a further all-round rise of about 10 per cent. Here and elsewhere the process of adjustment has been generally amicable. Most of the strikes have been short-lived and their conduct has been peaceable. High prices have pressed hardly on the workmen, and the employers, most of whom have been working at considerable profit, have not been slow to grant such concessions as could fairly be claimed. The most determined and long-lived strike was that of the employees of the Government presses in Calcutta, which lasted for 2 months and 9 days and resulted in no modification of the terms which Government offered before the strike was called. In November there was a strike of stevedores' coolies in Calcutta, which lasted for 10 days. No cargo could be handled during that time and great loss and inconvenience was caused to commerce and shipping. At the end of November considerable unrest was stirred up in the coal-fields, and a series of strikes occurred in December, but the position was somewhat better at the end of the year. A complete record of labour disputes was begun by the new Department of Industries on the 1st July 1920. The number of strikes recorded up to the 31st December 1920 was 106. There were no lock-outs. In about 10 per cent. of the settlements the demands of the strikers were conceded in full, in about 70 per cent. modified concessions were granted, and in about 20 per cent. the men returned to work without securing any advantage. There were comparatively few strikes in progress at the end of the year. With seven exceptions, the cause of the strikes was a demand for higher wages in every case. The record, as it

Strikes.

stood on the 31st December 1920, showed that approximately 170,000 workpeople had been involved in strikes since the 1st July. Some tentative movements occurred in the direction of the formation of organized labour associations. A local branch of the Railway Workmen's Association at Allahabad was started at Kharagpur, and called a strike (lasting one day), which was denounced by the central association as unauthorized. Other organizations were mostly confined to smaller groups, such as pressmen, motor car drivers and tramway men, and did not extend to the mass of the ordinary labouring population.

19. **Washington Conference.**—The International Labour Conference at Washington, at which India was represented, was held towards the end of 1919, but the draft convention and recommendations adopted were not considered until the year under review. The proposals, which deal with the whole question of the employment of labour, contemplate more extensive legislation than anything which has hitherto been suggested for India. To a large extent the Government of Bengal is in favour of the acceptance of the recommendations. A sixty-hour week in factories and a fifty-four-hour week in mines has been approved, with the proviso that it shall not affect the hours during which the machinery and plant is kept working under a system of shifts. The employment of women and children presents special difficulties in India, and this Government have not been able to accept all the recommendations put forward under this head. Primary education is still far from universal and the stage of compulsory education has not yet been reached. The prohibition of the employment of children under 14 is chiefly intended to ensure that they shall receive sound primary education before they are employed on industrial labour. In India, however, it is not yet possible to insist upon this; and in any case it is unlikely that, even when compulsory primary education is introduced, the school-going age will be fixed as high as fourteen. The proposal to amend the definition of "factory," which at present applies to places employing 50 or more workmen, with an option to the local Government to apply it where 20 or more persons are employed, has been so far accepted as to reduce these limits to 20 and 10, respectively.

20. **Co-operative Movement.**—The co-operative movement has received a great impulse during 1920 and the number of societies has increased from about 4,700 to 6,000, with an increase of Rs. 60 lakhs in the capital invested. The total membership is now approaching 240,000. A special feature has been the organization of co-operative stores, which now number 74, all recently started. Many of them, however, have been organized by men with very little knowledge of the business which they have undertaken, with the sole idea of underselling existing traders who were believed to be

profiteering. Their buying arrangements are defective and they are too lax in the matter of allowing credit. It is feared, therefore, that there will be failures among them, but some societies will undoubtedly succeed, and these may pave the way to an extension of the movement on sounder lines in the future. It is a fact worthy of notice that the largest and most successful stores have been founded among cultivators. There are two of these, with a membership of 3,000 and 4,000, respectively, which are developing most successfully, and the business acumen shown by their committees of management augurs well for the future of the movement. Co-operative credit societies have generally done well during the year under review, and there is no reason to think that the rapidity of their expansion is too great to be consistent with sound finance. The co-operative spirit is certainly abroad, and has led to the opening of schools and to the combination of villagers for public purposes, such as the provision of roads, wells and the like. A co-operative association has been founded during the year to propagate societies for the improvement of sanitation, the chief object being to give financial assistance to organizations for fighting malaria. The few societies of this kind which exist have not been particularly successful, but the stimulus and assistance of the larger association is expected to improve them.

The artisan societies have been comparatively successful, particularly in Bankura, where from the most unpromising material among the weaver class a prosperous combination is rapidly developing. Nearly one-third of the share capital of the Bankura Industrial Union, which had a turnover of about 2 lakhs in the year, belongs to 400 or 500 weavers, who a few years ago were eking out a precarious existence on doles from Government during the famine. A wonderful spirit has been evoked in several of these societies and progressive ideas have dawned upon the horizon of what was hitherto the least enlightened class in Bengal. This does not mean that there have been no failures in Bankura: there are numerous cases of disloyalty to the societies, but the balance is well weighed down on the right side.

The colonists at Khepupara and the ganja cultivators at Naugaon vie with each other in co-operative development, and are the most conspicuous features in the movement in Bengal. In Naugaon the membership of the societies has doubled in a year and there have been most praiseworthy developments, of which a few deserve description here. It must be remembered that at first there was only the one society: it succeeded, and there followed a central bank, about 100 credit societies, the largest co-operative stores in the province with its members reckoned in thousands and its annual turnover in lakhs, a printing press to meet the societies' own demands and from which it is intended shortly to issue a weekly local newspaper, the employment of a veterinary surgeon to collect cattle mortality statistics with

a view to cattle insurance, the erection of a new dispensary and the extension of an old one, the erection of six schools, and the establishment of a farm on the lines of the farms of the Agricultural Department at headquarters of districts for the benefit of local cultivators. All of these schemes are of purely local origin, supported by local finance and thoroughly co-operative.

An unfortunate feature of the year is the disaster that has overtaken the milk supply societies formed near Calcutta. Last March they were thriving and reached their zenith in June, when they delivered two tons of pure milk daily in Calcutta. No precautions were taken, however, to provide against the shortage which is ordinarily experienced in the rainy season and a serious epidemic of foot and mouth disease added to the troubles. Abuses crept in, discipline was relaxed, and by October the pre-eminence for purity which their produce had hitherto held had been changed to an unsavoury reputation for adulteration. A considerable improvement has since manifested itself, but it will take time and careful and honest management before the former position of the societies can be regained.

Agriculture.

21. **Season and Crops.**—The character of the season and the outturn of crops has already been briefly noticed. Bengal is not usually as acutely affected by the failure of the monsoon as other provinces, but the season of 1918-19 was a bad one; some recovery was, however, made in 1919-20 and the reports for 1920-21 are also satisfactory. This Presidency usually suffers more from floods than from shortness of rain, and the year 1920 was marked by a serious inundation in the western districts of the Burdwan Division. On the 15th July the river Cossye, which was in high flood, burst its embankment and inundated 70 square miles of the Tamluk subdivision of the Midnapore district, 180 square miles in the Ghatal subdivision and 30 square miles in the Contai subdivision. No lives were lost, but considerable damage was done to villages and standing crops. Prompt measures of relief were taken and a fund was raised by His Excellency the Governor, which did much to alleviate the distress.

22. **Work of the Agricultural Department.**—The results of the excellent lines upon which the Agricultural Department has been conducting its work for many years past are now manifesting themselves on an extensive scale and are being understood and appreciated by those whom they are intended to benefit, namely, the vast agriculturual population of Bengal. The policy of the department has been research followed by demonstration; and the first fruits of research are now being realised and brought home to the agricultural classes by means of demonstrations, the practical value of which they have not been slow to grasp. First

comes the discovery and production of improved varieties of seed and then the demonstration to the cultivator of the value of these varieties and their distribution for general use. In Bengal the improvement of the rice crop, which covers about 70 per cent. of the total cultivated area, naturally took precedence. The two varieties upon which the Agricultural Department have chiefly concentrated their attention are known as *indrasail*, which is a transplanted *aman* rice, and *kataktara*, which is an *aus* paddy. These two varieties were grown on a quarter of a million acres and produced an increased yield worth Rs. 30 lakhs in 1919, and the area has been further extended in 1920 with still greater profit to the cultivator. With jute, the crop next in importance to rice in Bengal, the results have been equally satisfactory; and the *kakya Bombai* variety, which has been produced at the Dacca farm by a process of selection, is already grown on over 100,000 acres and has produced an increased yield valued at Rs. 20 lakhs. Some idea of the ultimate value of these improvements may be gathered from the fact that, if they are gradually extended to the whole rice- and jute-growing areas of the province, the total profit to the cultivators will amount to nearly 30 crores of rupees annually. The demand for the improved seed both of rice and jute already exceeds the supply, and the task upon which the department is now engaged is the extension of its activities by the establishment of more demonstration farms and seed stores. There is now a District Agricultural Officer in every district, who is assisted by demonstrators, and demonstration and seed farms are being established as fast as funds and the capacity of the department permit. At present there are 3 of these farms working, and 8 more are under construction or have been sanctioned. The number of demonstrators is now 79, and this is being increased as rapidly as is possible with the limited supply of trained men. Seed stores are of equal importance and in great demand. There are 31 of these now in existence under Government control and 29 have been opened under local organisation. Now that the practical success of the work of the department is admitted, the next step is to enlist the co-operation of non-official agencies. With this object an Advisory Board has been attached to the Agricultural Department, and their first annual conference held in Calcutta on the 18th March 1920 was attended by ninety representatives. This Board is intended to co-operate and advise upon the official side of the agricultural organisation of the province, while the Provincial Agricultural Association, which may in time become a branch of the Indian Agricultural Society, is entirely unofficial and is intended to be an active organisation working with its own funds for the improvement of agriculture and encouraging the development of small local agricultural associations which have done so much for the advancement of agriculture on co-operative lines in other countries. The special agricultural education which is required to give practical direction to the movement is already being provided at the vernacular agricultural school at Dacca, and a similar

school will shortly be opened at Chinsura. Land has been acquired for the Agricultural Institute at Dacca and the building will be commenced at an early date.

Waterways.

23. **Grand Trunk Canal.**—The Grand Trunk Canal scheme which has been under consideration for many years was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1920 and active steps are now being taken to carry out the work. The dredgers have been ordered and will be delivered in 1921, the final detailed survey is in progress and land acquisition is about to begin. The canal will connect Calcutta with the main river system of Eastern Bengal and will greatly shorten and facilitate the important inland steamer route to the great jute and rice centres. It will reduce the distance for river steamers from Calcutta to the eastern districts of the Presidency by about 120 miles. The canal will provide a navigable highway 22½ miles long and from 250 to 400 feet wide, from Baranagar on the Hooghly to Kulti on the Kultigong river. A large inland harbour with railway and warehouse facilities will be constructed at Maniktalla, which should greatly relieve the congestion of shipping in the Hooghly by permitting inland vessels to turn round without entering the river. Incidentally, the construction of the canal will afford the means of reclaiming a large water-logged area in the vicinity of Calcutta, thus improving sanitary conditions and facilitating the expansion of the city towards the east. The harbour and its connected basins will provide a water frontage of nearly 14 miles, and it is anticipated that a new trade and industrial centre will be created in its neighbourhood.

24. **Development of waterways.**—The general question of the development of waterways in Bengal has been much to the fore during the year under review. A committee appointed by Government, consisting of practical men with special knowledge of the waterways of the Presidency, reported in August 1919 on the question of the conservation and improvement of the river Hooghly and its feeders and generally upon the administrative control of the deltaic river system. In a resolution issued in August 1920 the Government of Bengal accepted the main recommendation of the committee and appointed a permanent Board to examine all important projects concerning either drainage, irrigation, sanitation or transport which are likely to restrict the free flow of flood water. In June 1920 Government also enlarged the Standing Waterways Advisory Committee and defined its functions so as to include all matters relating to (*a*) the maintenance and improvement of waterways, more especially the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Meghna group of waterways which connect Bengal with Bihar and Orissa on the one side and with Assam on the other; and (*b*) the regulation of traffic on these waterways.

Public Health.

25. **Mortality.**—The health of the Presidency during 1920 was better than that of the preceding year, but, in spite of a considerable fall in mortality, the death-rate still remained in excess of the quinquennial average. The birth-rate showed a slight improvement over the year of 1919, but was still below the quinquennial average. The reduction in mortality was largely due to the greatly reduced prevalence of influenza, which caused widespread loss of life in 1918 and 1919, but had practically disappeared from all but a few localities during 1920. Cholera was much less prevalent than in 1919, but was epidemic in a few districts, notably Khulna. There was no outbreak this year at the important *mêla* at Sagar Island, owing largely to special measures taken by government; and the disastrous floods in the Midnapore district were fortunately not attended with any serious occurrence of the disease. The anticipated quinquennial epidemic of small-pox occurred in Calcutta during the winter of the year, and the disease spread thence to many other areas, with the result that the mortality under this head was nearly the same as in 1919 and greatly in excess of the quinquennial average. Better control of small-pox is expected for the future, in consequence of the introduction of the Vaccination Act into rural areas. Fevers as a class caused considerably less mortality during 1920, but numerous outbreaks of malaria were reported from many areas towards the close of the year. Plague was little in evidence, and was, as usual, chiefly confined to Calcutta. An isolated outbreak of relapsing fever attended with a number of fatalities occurred in the Darjeeling district during the year. Outbreaks of epidemic dropsy occurred in Howrah, Malda, Faridpur and Calcutta. Investigation appears to support the view that this disease is of an infective nature.

26. **Sanitary measures.**—Several important sanitary measures were initiated during the year. For example, no less than fourteen district boards appointed full-time health officers. A number of anti-malarial projects were in operation, and progress was made in the schemes for the improvement of the Jamoona river, the Nowai and Sunthi rivers and the Manikhali *khal*. A grant of Rs. 75,000 from provincial revenues was made to district boards and municipalities for the purpose of providing quinine for free distribution through dispensaries in malarious localities. An important malarial survey of the environs of Calcutta was undertaken at a cost of Rs. 25,000; and a mosquito survey of the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong was commenced, special attention being paid to the discovery of the prevalence of stegomiya mosquitoes with a view to taking steps for preventing the introduction of yellow fever. The investigation into the incidence of kala-azar in the eastern districts was continued and brought to light the fact that this serious inflection has a much wider distribution in Bengal than has heretofore been

thought probable. Active measures against this disease have been inaugurated in Mymensingh district, the principal centre of infection. Another line of defence opened up against preventible disease is the important hookworm campaign initiated in the Presidency. Working centres have been formed among the mills, factories, tea gardens and coal mines, and among rural areas in schools and police lines. The question of river pollution received special attention during the year, investigation into the causes of pollution of the Hooghly being completed. Considerable advance was made with public health propaganda. A health and child welfare exhibition was organised in Calcutta during April, and was a great success, attracting many thousands of visitors. Smaller sanitary exhibitions and demonstrations were also held during the year at numerous centres, and bioscope performances illustrating sanitary and health problems have everywhere been well attended. Lantern lectures on public health are now becoming a recognized educational factor in the cause of sanitary progress. A large amount of popular literature, including illustrated posters and leaflets dealing with the prevention of the commoner diseases, was prepared and issued during the year, and is reported to have been of great value in helping to popularise vaccination and measures against cholera, hookworm, etc.

During the year three medical officers, including a lady, were appointed for the purpose of obtaining the information necessary for organising medical inspection of school children and improving school hygiene. Important water-supply schemes are under construction for the towns of Midnapore and Krishnagar, the estimated cost being Rs. 4,73,000 and Rs. 4,13,000, respectively. Considerable progress has been made in connexion with the scheme of sewerage for Dacca city. Schemes of sewerage have also been prepared for the towns of Naihati, Bhatpara and Titaghar. The Committee appointed to advise Government in regard to the reorganisation of the Sanitary Department submitted their report in May, and their recommendations are under consideration. The question of introducing a special public health organisation in the tea districts also received attention and proposals have been put forward for the establishment of Boards of Health in the tea areas of Darjeeling and the Duars.

27. **Medical.**—The Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene will not be opened in its complete form until 1921, but the administrative staff was appointed in 1920 and research work has already begun. The original scheme for the School of Tropical Medicine, which was then distinct from the proposed Institute of Hygiene, provided for a staff of five professors; but it was subsequently decided to amalgamate the two institutions under the name of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and sanction has been asked to the creation of nine professorships. These professors will be assisted by seven research workers whose salary will be paid by the

Endowment Fund which was organized by Sir Leonard Rogers and which was formally constituted during the year under review. The Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases will be opened at the same time as the school. The public have been most liberal in subscribing to both of these institutions, and it is hoped that similar support will be forthcoming towards the maintenance charges, which will amount to nearly Rs. 5 lakhs a year. The extensions of the Medical College Hospital, which is now one of the largest institutions of its kind in the world, are making good progress. The special hospital for eye, ear and throat cases, which is under construction, will cost nearly Rs. 11 lakhs and the new nurses' quarters, which are being erected, will cost Rs. 3¼ lakhs. Land has been acquired at a cost of over Rs. 7 lakhs for hostels for medical students, which are badly needed. Applications for admission to the Medical College have been so numerous that it was found necessary to revise the rules. In fact, the demand for medical education is enormously in excess of the supply, and though Government are doing their utmost to make good the deficiency, it will be many years before the needs of the country and the aspirations of the educated class for a career for which they are peculiarly well fitted can be satisfied. The Carmichael Medical College at Belgachia, though it has obtained affiliation up to the final M. B. Examination of the Calcutta University, is still unable to raise the funds required for necessary extensions and improvements. The college authorities have not yet been able to draw the promised Government grant of Rs. 4 lakhs, owing to their failure to collect the minimum of private donations upon which the grant is conditional. The Burdwan Medical School is under construction and will be opened in 1921. The difficulty of obtaining qualified medical aid in the mofussil is still one of the problems of Bengal as of the rest of India. An attempt which gives some promise of success has been made by the District Board of Jessore, whose example has already been followed in other districts, to find a solution by subsidising qualified medical men who agree to start practice in the mofussil, and supplying them with medicines. The subsidy will only be given for three years, at the end of which time the recipient should have established his practice; and in return for it certain reports have to be submitted and schools have to be medically inspected.

Education.

28. **Dacca University.**—The Dacca University Act was passed in March 1920 and the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor assumed office towards the end of the year. It will be both a residential and a teaching university, but its jurisdiction is limited to a radius of 5 miles from the Convocation Hall. No educational institution within that area will be associated with, or be admitted to any privileges of, any other university in India. One of

the features of the Dacca University will be the combination of tutorial instruction with the ordinary recognized teaching. This instruction will be given in the halls and hostels, but will be under the control of the University authorities.

29. **Educational Institutions and Pupils.**—On the 31st March 1920 the number of public educational institutions in Bengal was 50,620 against 49,223 in 1919, and the number of pupils had increased from 1,931,535 to 1,953,909. There was a decrease in the number of pupils in private schools. This was partly due to the effects of the cyclone in Eastern Bengal, which swept away many of the school buildings, and partly to adverse economic conditions and the prevalence of epidemic disease. Broadly speaking, the number of Muhammadan children under instruction increased, while that of Hindus decreased. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 278 lakhs to Rs. 302 lakhs in the official year 1919-20. School fees showed a marked increase, which points to the conclusion that the demand for education has been growing steadily despite adverse conditions.

30. **Educational Services.**—The Indian Educational and the Provincial Educational Services were reorganized during the year. The latter is now called the Bengal Educational Service. Nothing has as yet been done to improve the pay and prospects of the large number of state employees in the Education Department, who constitute the various services below the Bengal Educational Service, or hold posts outside the grades of the Education Department cadre. This matter is now under the consideration of a committee appointed by Government.

31. **Primary Education.**—The extension and improvement of primary education is one of the crying needs of the province. The Bengal Primary Education Act was passed in 1919. Under section 3 of that Act all municipalities are required to furnish returns as to the number of children of school-going age in their jurisdiction, the school accommodation at present available for them and the measures proposed for the provision of adequate schooling opportunities for them. This information, without which no through-going scheme of primary education can be constructed, is now being collected and examined by an officer of the Education Department, who is visiting different districts and towns in the Presidency investigating the problem on the spot. When his report is received a comprehensive view of the whole problem will be obtained, and Government will be in a position to consider on what lines advance shall be made. In the meanwhile progress is being made with a complete scheme of primary education in Calcutta, towards which Government have agreed to contribute Rs. 3 lakhs during 1920-21.

32. **Training of Elementary Teachers.**—A necessary preliminary to any satisfactory system of primary education is the provision of a sufficient number of trained elementary teachers. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received during 1920 to a scheme for the establishment of a central training class for elementary teachers at the headquarters of every subdivision in the Presidency. Extensive building operations are necessary before this scheme can be carried out, but classes have already been established at 16 centres where buildings were available. A class for the training of Moslem women teachers and a class for training Brahmo girls for the teaching profession were opened in Calcutta during the year under review.

Local Self-Government.

33. **District Boards.**—The policy of making district boards self-governing institutions in a more real sense was further pursued by the extension of the privilege of electing their own chairman to 15 district boards, with effect from the 1st April 1920. Twenty district boards out of 25 have now been removed from official tutelage and the district boards of Chittagong and Dinajpur will shortly be placed on the same footing. It has also been decided to increase the number of members of the district boards and to increase the proportion of elected members from one-half to two-thirds. The annual conferences of representatives of district boards tend to stimulate interest in the work of these important local bodies and to facilitate the interchange of ideas and promote progress. The income of these bodies is about Rs. 130 lakhs a year and they hold balances amounting to about Rs. 35 lakhs. Their opportunities for development and progressive administration are, therefore, considerable, and signs are not lacking of a growing tendency to adopt a more forward policy, particularly in public health administration, but more might be done if the boards abandoned the system of financing capital works from current revenue.

34. **Village Self-Government.**—Village self-government has always been backward in Bengal, and the passing of the Village Self-Government Act in 1919 marked a new departure in this sphere of local activity. It is the policy of Government to constitute union boards for groups of villages throughout the province at the earliest possible date, and up to the end of 1920 about 1,500 boards had been established and many more were in process of creation. It is realized that the degree of success attending these new local bodies will vary very greatly, but the prospects are hopeful; many of the union boards already display a keen sense of responsibility and corporate activity, and it is certain that with a wide extension of the scheme an increasing number will develop a real sense of communal interest, will tax themselves equitably and carry on a progressive, though modest, policy of improvement of their villages and promotion of the public health and general well-being.

35. **Calcutta Water Supply Extension Scheme.**—The Calcutta Corporation continued to develop its resources and undertook many new schemes of improvement. The water supply of the city has long been insufficient for the needs of an oriental population living in tropical conditions. All efforts to introduce a continuous high pressure supply, as prescribed in the Calcutta Municipal Act of 1899, have failed and the southern portion of the town has suffered considerably owing to the heavy demands of the northern area, which is at the head of the distribution system. Early in 1920 an expert was brought out from England to advise upon the whole problem. He recommended a large increase in the quantity of water supplied, at an estimated cost of Rs. 330 lakhs. This proposal was generally adopted by the Corporation and has received the sanction of Government. The cost will be a severe strain upon the municipal finances, but the income of the Corporation has expanded greatly in recent years and now stands at Rs. 169 lakhs. It is anticipated, therefore, that the financing of the scheme, though difficult, will not be beyond the resources of the city.

36. **Calcutta Improvement Trust.**—The Calcutta Improvement Trust, which has been able to carry on its programme of work since 1912 without having to raise a loan, has now come to the end of its immediate resources. The revenue assigned to the Trust under the Calcutta Improvement Act is for sixty years, and it was roughly estimated that its activities would extend to about 20 years, but that it would hypothecate its income for the remaining 40 years by raising loans from time to time; in fact, it was generally assumed that money would have to be raised in this way within two or three years of the commencement of its programme of work. It is a matter for congratulation, therefore, that the Trust has been able to carry on its work for nine years without borrowing, though it is unfortunate that its first loan should have to be raised in such an inopportune state of the money market. The improvement of Burra Bazar, which is the greatest problem with which the Trust is faced, took more definite shape during 1920, when a general scheme was published and adopted, with modifications, after much discussion. The improvement of this area depends to a large extent upon the removal of the Mint and the utilization of the site for relief of the present congestion. A committee considered this question towards the end of the year and submitted a report recommending the removal of the Mint. Rehousing is now taking a more prominent place in the schemes of the Trust, and land was acquired for rehousing purposes in Maniktalla, Cossipore-Chitpur and Kerbala Tank Lane, while a large scheme in Dhaniabagan received the sanction of Government. It is hoped that the housing problem in Calcutta will also be dealt with by private enterprise. In order to encourage this, Government announced in May that they would acquire land under the Land Acquisition Act for approved housing schemes to be executed by registered companies. A

Calcutta Development Commissioner was appointed to advise on such schemes and private enterprise at once came forward with proposals which were being considered at the close of the year.

37. **Mufassal Municipalities.**—There are 115 mufassal municipalities in Bengal, of which only 46 have an income of over Rs. 30,000 a year and 26 have to carry on their work on less than Rs. 10,000 a year. The total municipal population (excluding Calcutta) is nearly 2 millions and the total revenue is only Rs. 70 lakhs, which is equivalent to an average income of about Rs. 60,000 per municipality and Rs. 3-8 per head of population. Financial difficulties are, therefore, obviously at the root of most civic problems in this Presidency. Roads and other public works, conservancy, water supply, lighting and general administration consume about Rs. 45 lakhs of the total revenue and the remaining Rs. 25 lakhs has to provide for education, medical relief, sanitation, drainage, fire prevention and loan charges. These latter only amount to slightly over Rs. 4 lakhs, or about 6 per cent. of the total expenditure, which, though it indicates cautious finance, hardly points to a progressive line of policy. In spite of revision of assessments the income of the majority of municipalities remains practically stationary. On the other hand, the interest taken in civic affairs continues to increase, and in most towns the ordinary municipal services are moderately efficient. It is enterprise and a real policy of progress which are lacking.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
Historical Summary.
Form of Administration.
Character of Land Tenures: System of Surveys and Settlement.
Civil Divisions and British Territory.
Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

See—

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 1—134.

Changes in the administration.

Nil.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1919-20.]

[*Area 1,307 square miles; chief produce—rice, jute and tobacco; population, 593,052; military force, 296 men and 4 guns; annual revenue, Rs. 32,30,074; Ruling Chief—Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur; family, Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar.*]

Maharaja's visit to Europe.

1. His Highness and family proceeded to Europe for a short visit in February 1919, and another daughter was born to His Highness in London on the 23rd May 1919. His Highness returned from England in September 1919.

Council.

2. Mr. H. J. Twynam, I.C.S., was appointed, *vice* Mr. Milligan retired, as Vice-President of the State Council for a period of three years, with effect from the 3rd March 1920. On the executive side 36 meetings were held against 21 of the previous year. At 22 of these the Maharaja presided.

On the judicial side the Council held 40 meetings against 21 of the previous year. A meeting of the Legislative Council was also held.

State Railway.

3. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 3,80,187, while the working expenses were Rs. 1,74,146. The net earnings were 9·9 on the capital outlay against 7·48 of the previous year.

Finance.

4. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 32,30,074 against Rs. 29,36,919 in the previous year, while the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 31,44,320 against Rs. 28,39,222. The closing balance, inclusive of Government money and deposits, was Rs. 11,02,309.

Crops and condition of the people.

5. The jute crop, in spite of variable rainfall, yielded an outturn of about 75 per cent. of the normal and the prices ranged between Rs. 4 and Rs. 15 per maund. The outturn of the *haimanti* crops was fair and the price of common rice ranged between Rs. 5-10 and Rs. 8 per maund. The tobacco crop was about 75 per cent. of the normal and the price varied from Rs. 8-8 to Rs. 25 per maund.

The general condition of the people was unsatisfactory owing to the shortage of foodstuffs, but the situation was eased considerably by the issue of orders prohibiting the export of the staple food-grains from the State.

Criminal Justice.

6. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,451 against 2,328 of the previous year. The percentage of conviction to total number of persons tried was 55·1 against 64·12 of the previous year. The number of persons admitted into jails was 324 against 359 in the previous year.

Education.

7. The number of subdivisional higher English schools was 4, as in the previous year, and the total number of pupils attending them was 1,089. The total number of recognized primary schools was 305, as in the previous year. The Victoria College continued to make satisfactory progress.

Public health.

8. There was a severe epidemic of cholera in all the subdivisions of the State and small-pox also raged everywhere.

HILL TIPPERA STATE.

[Administration Report of Hill Tippera for the year 1919-20.]

[*Area, 4,116 square miles; population, 229,613; revenue from the State, Rs. 13,01,235; revenue from zamindaris in British territory, Rs. 12,35,300; chief products, rice and cotton; military strength, 208, including officers—present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Manikya Birendra Kishor Deb Barman Bahadur, Maharaja of Hill Tippera; aged 37 years; family, Indo-Chinese; caste, Kshatriya; has male heir; residence, Agartala.*]

His Excellency the Governor's visit to the State.

9. His Excellency the Governor visited the State in 1919, and invested His Highness with the hereditary title of Maharaja, which was conferred on him on the 1st January 1919.

Political Agent.

10. Mr. J. Younie, I.C.S., succeeded Mr. Bartley as Political Agent in September 1919.

Revenue and Finance.

11. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 13,01,235 against Rs. 12,16,926 in the previous year and Rs. 10,83,495, the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaris amounted to Rs. 25,36,535 and with law charges recovered, refunds and deposits the total amount was Rs. 36,60,647, as against Rs. 31,29,429 in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 24,36,263.

Protection.

12. The total number of offences reported to the police was 1,336 against 1,090 in the previous year. The number of persons arrested and sent up was 767 and 716, respectively; of 716 persons sent up 336 were convicted and 227 persons awaited trial at the close of the year. The percentage of stolen property recovered was 20·34 against 44·19 in the previous year.

Weather and Crops.

13. The rainfall was 89·26 inches, as against 93·83 inches of the preceding year, the quinquennial average being 93·31 inches. During the first two months of the year the rainfall was scanty, which affected the *aus* crop. The hailstorms of February and March damaged the *rabi* crop. The rainfall in the remainder of the year was good, and the outturn of crops was, on the whole, fair.

Public Health.

14. In the latter half of the year small-pox broke out in many parts of the State. Influenza prevailed in some places, but in a less virulent form than in the previous year. Malaria was prevalent as usual.

General.

15. The number of children attending schools in the State declined from 5,054 to 4,719. Settlements were made of 24,000 acres of land for tea plantations.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1919-20.]

Agricultural classes.

16. The monsoon of 1919 gave on the whole a poor supply of rain and its distribution was defective. In the Rajshahi Division, where considerable distress was in evidence at the commencement of the year, the success of the *rabi* and *aman* crops resulted in a speedy amelioration of the position; but in other divisions the outturn of crops was poor, and this affected the condition of the people. The two outstanding features of the year were the famine in Bankura, and a severe cyclone in Eastern Bengal, which passing through Khulna and a portion of Jessore swept through the districts of Faridpur, Dacca, Tippera and Mymensingh, leaving death and destruction in its track. Famine was declared in Bankura on May 15th, and relief operations lasted till September, when a good autumn crop relieved the situation. In the area of the cyclone, special measures were immediately taken to mitigate the distress. By the end of the year a good crop restored the devastated tract to a fair state of prosperity. A sum of Rs. 22,07,061 was advanced under the Agriculturists' and Land Improvement Loans Acts.

Wages and Salaries.

17. The demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was great, and the labouring classes earned good wages in the mills and factories in the 24-Parganas, Howrah, and Hooghly and in the coal mines and rapidly developing industrial concerns in Asansol subdivision. The outstanding feature of the year was the remarkable development due to the extension of co-operative societies for manufacture as in Bankura and for sale as at Khepupara in the Bakarganj Sunderbans. Persons with small fixed incomes, however, suffered severely on account of the general rise in the prices of imported articles.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1919-20].

Total Collections.

18. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 98,368 against 98,107 in the previous year. Of these 92,303 were permanently-settled estates, 3,744 temporarily-settled estates and 2,321 held direct by Government. The current demand of the year amounted to Rs. 2,76,47,171. The increase of Rs. 2,30,927 in the demand of the previous year was due mostly to new settlements, resettlements and progressive increase of demand in temporarily-settled and Government estates. In Jalpaiguri, however, a sum of Rs. 5,11,583 of the demand of the year under report, was transferred to the next year owing to a change of the latest date of payment of arrears of revenue from 1st March to 1st April in respect of tea and jute lands, and this resulted in a net decrease of Rs. 2,80,656 in the total current demand of the year as compared with the preceding year. The total realizable demand including arrears of Rs. 22,15,819 was Rs. 2,98,62,990 out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,78,82,712 being 93·36 per cent. of the total and 100·85 per cent. of the current demand against 92·76 and 100·56 per cent. respectively, in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 1,68,844 though collected within the year, could not be credited in the accounts of the year. The total remissions amounted to Rs. 3,31,623 against Rs. 72,101 in the preceding year. Of this the remission of a large sum of Rs. 2,18,369 was only nominal, being granted as a result of the compromise of civil suits between Government and the settlement holders of the estates Char Bhuta and Char Fasson in the district of Bakarganj.

Collection in (a) permanently settled estates.

19. The total demand of permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 2,18,39,295 (Rs. 2,15,78,536 current and Rs. 2,60,759 arrear) of which Rs. 2,16,27,122 or 99·02 per cent. was collected. The current collections amounted to 98 per cent. or more in all districts except Bakarganj (97·04). Of the total balance of Rs. 98,026 in Bakarganj, Rs. 95,921 was due from the Tagore Estate, under the management of the Court of Wards; this estate was subsequently released after being sold subject to the payment of outstanding arrears of revenue, in execution of a mortgage decree.

(b) Temporarily settled estates.

20. Temporarily-settled estates are divided into three sub-classes—

(1) private estates settled with proprietors,
(2) private estates leased to farmers, and
(3) Government estates leased to farmers.

The total collections from these estates amounted to Rs. 18,27,390 being 107·56 per cent. of the current demand of Rs. 16,98,814 against 95·01 per cent. in the previous year. Of the total balance of Rs. 2,11,218 a sum of Rs. 2,05,123 was reported to be in process of recovery.

(c) Estates held direct by Government.

21. The estates held direct by Government comprise two sub-classes—

(1) estates belonging to private proprietors but managed by Government; and
(2) those owned by Government as proprietor.

The total demand of these estates amounted to Rs. 57,65,431 (current Rs. 43,69,821 and arrear Rs. 13,95,610), of which Rs. 44,28,200 or 76·80 per cent. was collected, Rs. 1,11,599 remitted and Rs. 12,25,632 left unrealized at the close of the year. A sum of Rs. 83,366 was collected too late in the year to be credited in the accounts. The percentage of current collection on current demand was almost the same as in the previous year, being

80·09 against 80·04 of the previous year. The falling off in the percentage of arrear collections from 71·31 per cent. in the previous year to 66·50 in the year under report was mainly due to the prevailing high prices and to the ravages caused by the cyclone of September in the Eastern Bengal districts as the consequent distress considerably hampered collection work.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

22. The total collections amounted to Rs. 16,38,813 against Rs. 24,57,337 in the preceding year. The decrease was mainly due to smaller recoveries during the year under the head "Recoverey of survey and settlement charges." The collections of Rs. 2,01,887 under the head "Other receipts" included a sum of Rs. 57,325 realised from the Burdwan estate on account of *pulbandi* contribution.

Changes in the land revenue demand of temporarily-settled estates under direct management.

23. There was a net increase of 7,755 acres in the area of land settled and of Rs. 2,16,890 in revenue.

Redemption of land revenue.

24. The total number of petty estates and holdings, the land revenue of which was redeemed during the year, was 415 against 452 in the preceding year. With one exception they consisted of permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 730 and the price realised aggregated Rs. 21,909 against Rs. 25,224 in the previous year.

Remittance of land revenue and rent by money-orders.

25. The number of special money-orders issued for remittance of land revenue and cesses during the year was 228,117 covering an aggregate amount of Rs. 21,52,603 against 230,203 and Rs. 20,54,538, respectively, in the preceding year. The decrease in the number of orders and the increase in the total value thereof was attributed to the more extended use of the combined form of money-orders introduced for the joint remittance of land revenue and cesses. The remittance exceeded a lakh of rupees in eight districts and Rs. 50,000 in eight others. The average value of each money-order was 9·43.

Coercive measures. (a) Sale laws.

26. There were 13,098 defaults and 1,234 sales during the year under report as compared with 14,718 defaults and 1,319 sales in the preceding year. The price realised by sale was 11·2 times the Government revenue. One hundred and seventy-four appeals were filed. In 15 cases sales were annulled by the Commissioners under section 2 of Bengal Act, VII of 1868, and in 17 cases by the Board of Revenue under section 26 of Act XI of 1859, as amended by the Decentralisation Act, 1914.

(b) Certificate procedure.

27. The total number of certificates (exclusive of those for cesses) filed during the year fell from Rs. 63,235 to Rs. 53,522 showing a decrease of 9,713. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 79·0 against 75·1 in the previous year, the number of cases pending at the close of the year being 16,822 as against 20,285 at the end of 1918-19. In the majority of cases payment was made on the issue of notices or on attachment of property and actual sale was necessary in only 4,357 cases or 7·3 per cent. of the total number of cases (58,953) disposed of during the year.

Realisation of Government and other demands by imprisonment.

28. Of the 48 persons committed to civil jails in the enforcement of certificates, nine were imprisoned for non-payment of Government demands and the remainder for withholding sums due to District Boards and Courts of Wards, etc.

Processes.

29. The total number of processes served during the year was 982,914 against 966,757 in the preceding year. The process fees realised amounted to Rs. 3,82,261-7 against Rs. 3,75,976 in the preceding year, and the total cost of service including the pay of supervising establishment debitable to land revenue was Rs. 2,74,085 against Rs. 2,62,058. The cost of the process-serving establishment exceeded the receipts from fees in the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore, Khulna, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Bogra. In the Presidency Division the increase in cost was due to the service of unpaid process, to the grant of war allowance, and to the

payment of boat hire at enhanced rates to peons. The system of fines and rewards for bad and good work was reported to have worked well. The system of serving processes by dafadars through president panchayats was in force in the districts of Birbhum, Hooghly, Jessore, Dacca and Tippera and in parts of the districts of Burdwan, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Khulna, Faridpur and Rangpur. The system was reported to have worked satisfactorily on the whole, except in the districts of Jessore and Khulna. It has practically been discontinued in Nadia on account of the difficulty of recording affidavits in cases of non-personal service of processes under the Certificate Act.

OTHER REVENUE WORK.

Land Registration.

30. The total number of proprietary interests entered in the land registration registers of the Presidency was 974,287 at the beginning of the year, as against 984,479 at its close. The number of applications for registration of succession to proprietary interests in land by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise was 37,352 of which 34,100 were granted before the close of the year. The number of old interests removed and new interests recorded were 37,893 and 48,085, respectively. The number of undisposed of cases at the close of the year was 10,408 of which 233 were pending for more than six months. The work of revision of register " D " in the district of Dacca on the basis of the record-of-rights was completed during the year under review.

Partitions.

31. There were 253 cases pending at the close of the preceding year, and 71 cases were instituted during the year under report. Out of the total of 324 cases, 70 cases were disposed of, and 254 cases remained pending at the end of the year. Of these 154 cases are pending for more than two years, mostly, in the districts of Dacca (23), Mymensingh (30), Faridpur (10), Bakarganj (19), Tippera (24), and Rajshahi (10). Special officers were employed during the year exclusively on partition work in Mymensingh, Faridpur, Noakhali, Rajshahi and Dinajpur. Estates partition funds exist only in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh, that at Jessore having been abolished. The incidence of cost per acre of the area partitioned during the year in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh was 12 annas 11 pies in the former, and 4 annas 7 pies in the latter, the low cost in Mymensingh being due to the vast area under partition.

Land Acquisition.

32. During the year proceedings for the acquisition on behalf of Government, local bodies and companies of land covering an area of 4,123 acres were confirmed at a total cost of Rs. 72,60,613 as against an area of 4,098 acres at a total cost of Rs. 59,97,449 in the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred a sum of Rs. 38,28,930 was paid for the acquisition of land required for Government, including State Railways and Companies' Railways, provided with land free of cost, and Rs. 34,31,683 for all other purposes, viz., for District Boards, Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust, Calcutta Port Commissioners and Railways and other Companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed during the year was Rs. 1,761 against Rs. 1,463 in the preceding year. The increase in the average cost is chiefly due to the fact that proceedings for the acquisition of more valuable town lands in Howrah, Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan, Mymensingh and Bakarganj were confirmed during the year.

Loans—(a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

33. The value of loans outstanding at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,68,590 and loans amounting to Rs. 43,400 were advanced during the year under report. Out of the sum advanced during the year Rs. 22,500 were advanced in Bankura and Rs. 20,000 to the tenants of the colonization area in the district of Bakarganj. Of Rs. 2,11,990 the total outstanding principal Rs. 63,092 was repayable during the year. Out of this Rs. 54,434 was realised including Rs. 823 collected in advance, while Rs. 337 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 1,57,219 (including Rs. 4,100 under suspension), of which Rs. 5,044 was

overdue. Of Rs. 13,860 due on account of interest, current and arrear, the collection during the year amounted to Rs. 12,571, while Rs. 70 was remitted and a balance of Rs. 568 (excluding Rs. 651 under suspension) was left unrealised at the close of the year.

(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act.

34. The amount advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs. 21,63,661. The largest sums were issued in the districts of Dacca (Rs. 8,17,050), Bankura (Rs. 5,33,413), Khulna (Rs. 1,74,967), Faridpur (Rs. 1,23,342) and Bakarganj (Rs. 1,14,980). In Bankura loans were granted as a famine relief measure while in Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj and Khulna large sums were issued for the relief of the distress caused by the cyclone of September 1919. The outstanding balance of the previous year was Rs. 11,73,904, making the aggregrate amount outstanding Rs. 33,37,565, of which Rs. 10,36,194 was recoverable within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 7,45,119 including Rs. 3,989 paid in advance; Rs. 733 was remitted. The balance still recoverable is Rs. 25,91,713 (including Rs. 43,250 under suspension), of which Rs. 2,51,031 was overdue at the end of the year. The amounts overdue in the district of Tippera, Bankura, Burdwan, Mymensingh and Birbhum are heavy. Of Rs. 1,11,827 due on account of interest, current and arrear Rs. 83,422 was collected.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1919.]

Outturn of the year.

35. During the year no new district was brought under survey. An area of 2,611 square miles was traversed, of which 777 square miles were in the district of Bankura, 649 square miles in Jessore and 1,185 square miles in Nadia, including the diara areas on the river Bhagirathi in that district and in the neighbouring portions of the districts of Hooghly, Burdwan, Murshidabad and the 24-Parganas.

Eight hundred thirty-two thousand one hundred and twenty-six copies of maps were prepared during the year. Satisfactory progress was made in the production of large scale (4″) jurisdiction maps in the districts of Noakhali, Tippera and Rajshahi. Progress was also made in the preparation of comparative maps in diara areas. A special demarcation of the Nadia rivers was undertaken in connection with the proposals for watching these rivers and their effect on the river Hooghly. The demarcation along $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the boundary of the Chittagong Hill Tracts adjoining the Lushai Hills district was completed and an area of 7·53 square miles was traversed in Kalimpong.

Land Records and Settlements

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending the 30th September 1919.]

General.

36. Cadastral survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights under the supervision of the Director of Land Records were in progress in 15 districts. Altogether 2,378 square miles were cadastrally surveyed and final records for 2,098 square miles were prepared. Out of a total area of about 65,960 square miles in the province, to which the Bengal Tenancy Act applies, the preparation of record-of-rights has been completed for 32,132 square miles.

Major Settlements.

37. Major operations were in progress in 8 districts, *viz.*, Midnapore, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Tippera, Noakhali, Jessore, Bankura and Nadia.

Midnapore.

38. The Settlement proceedings in the district of Midnapore are almost complete. The arrears of statistics, the preparation of 16-inch maps and the

printing of records were completed. As many as 14,737 cases with 66,090 tenancies under section 105, 1,911 applications for commutation of produce rent under section 40, and 2,074 under section 108A were disposed of. The proceedings for the settlement of rents under section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in pargana Silda were confirmed by the Government of India, and the new rents came into effect from the Amli year commencing on the 7th September 1919.

Mymensingh. 39. Settlement work is practically finished in the district of Mymensingh. The main items of work completed during the year were a few arrears of printing, computuation and recovery and case-work. The programme of diara resumption proceedings covered nearly 418 new estates, of which 50 with a total land revenue demand of Rs. 13,082 were completed.

Rajshahi. 40. In the district of Rajshahi progress in all stages, except that of case-work, was in advance of the programme. In the final stage of case-work the total number of tenancies dealt with under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was 40,730; the result was an increase of the rent of raiyats by 18 per cent. and of tenure-holders by 34 per cent. Diara proceedings in respect of 181 estates covering an area of 29 square miles were drawn up.

Tippera and Noakhali. 41. Progress was well ahead of programme in Tippera and Noakhali in all stages, except in respect of recovery and case-work. An area of 4 square miles was cadastrally surveyed. Thirteen thousand and fifty-nine cases under section 105, 313 cases under section 106, and 870 cases under section 108A were disposed of. The result of the year's working has been an increase of 26 per cent. in the rent of tenures and of 30 per cent. in that of raiyati holdings. In the matter of recovery of costs an area of 1,060 square miles was completed during the year. Re-settlement of land revenue was completed in an area of 254 square miles.

Jessore. 42. In Jessore during the year under report an area of 618 square miles was cadastrally surveyed, and the *bujharat* and attestation of 922 and 828 square miles, respectively, were completed; about 16⅓ lakhs of plots were dealt with during field *bujharat* and 6½ lakhs of interests during attestation. The notoriously bad climate of the district, however, retarded progress to some extent.

Bankura. 43. An area of 800 square miles was cadastrally surveyed in Bankura during the year. *Bujharat* and attestation were completed in 800 and 971 square miles, respectively; the number of plots was about 10½ lakhs and that of interests 1½ lakhs. Steps were also taken to resume all unresumed *ghatwali* lands in the district.

Nadia. 44. In the district of Nadia an area of 953 square miles was cadastrally surveyed of which 94 square miles lay on the west bank of the Bhagirathi. Field *bujharat* and attestation in respect of 953 and 42 square miles, respectively, were completed during the year. The former comprised 10½ lakhs of plots and the latter 20,000 interests. Preliminary enquiries were made into the incidents of *utbandi* tenancies which exist in large numbers in the area.

Minor Operations. 45. Minor operations were continued in the districts of Howrah, Hooghly, the 24-Parganas, Khulna, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Dinajpur and Malda. Altogether 3·16 square miles were cadastrally surveyed and records for about 31 square miles were finally published in these operations. Two schemes for the maintenance of records were in operation, *viz.*, one in the Fatehsingh estate belonging to the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad and the other in the ten-annas share of the Mathurapur estate in the district of Malda. In both estates the proprietors were granted the privilege of collecting arrears of rent through the medium of certificate procedure. On the experience of the maintenance of the record-of-rights in these two estates, standard rules of maintenance have been drawn up which will apply to all estates coming under the provisions of section 158 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Boundary marks. 46. Out of a total of 34,233 marks, 22,227, *i.e.*, about 65 per cent. were inspected, of which 2 per cent. were found damaged and 8 per cent. missing. In Government and temporarily-settled estates 118 damaged or missing marks were repaired or restored at a cost of Rs. 75.

Waste lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1919-20.]

Waste lands.

47. Special rules regarding waste lands exists for Chittagong, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and the Sunderbans. In Chittagong and Darjeeling resettlement of waste lands were made, while in Jalpaiguri the total area leased in the year was only 18 acres, with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 18, bringing the total area leased to 101,776 acres with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 68,225.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1919-20.]

Number and management.

48. The total number of estates under direct management including those of private individuals managed by Government was 2,319 with an aggregate annual demand of Rs. 42,32,463 (excluding that of Orphanganj Market, Hastings Estate and Madhab Babu's Bazar in the 24-Parganas). The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 8·98. The scheme for the re-organization of the Khas Mahal Department of Contai in Midnapore was generally approved by Government, and the Commissioner was asked to select a single sub-circle in each circle in which the experiment should be tried. A scheme for the re-organization of the tahsil establishment in the remaining khas mahals in the district was also under the consideration of the Board of Revenue, Bengal. The proposal to compound by payment of a lump sum the petty *peshkosh* demands under one rupee due to the proprietors of the Majnamutha and Jalamutha estates in the district was also approved by the Board. Government sanctioned the creation of a sadar khas mahal office in Jalpaiguri with a view to obtain more efficient administration. Under the terms of the compromise approved by the Government of India, Char Bhuta, Tauzi No. 5237, of the Bakarganj Collectorate was made a permanently-settled estate and its management was made over to Government for seven years as the *talukdar* found himself unable to collect rent from the under-tenure holders who refused to pay the enhanced rent. The proposal to take under khas management of Government the rights of the *talukdars* in seven Government estates, included in the Marichbunia group of estates in the district met with the approval of Government. The scheme for the maintenance of the khas mahal copies of settlement records for the Western Duars in the district of Jalpaiguri was initiated in 1918-19 and a detailed report submitted to Government. The experimental period of the scheme has been extended up to 31st December 1920.

Grant for improvements.

49. Out of the total amount of Rs. 1,53,858 expended on improvements, Rs. 20,437 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 66,463 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 14,080 on roads and bridges and the remainder (Rs. 52,878) on miscellaneous items of improvements.

Colonization in the Bakarganj Sunderbans.

50. The year under report is the thirteenth year of the colonization scheme. During the year 278 new colonists were settled on 10,980 bighas of land as against none in the preceding year. A sum of Rs. 5,000 was advanced to the colonists as agricultural loans out of which Rs. 3,500 was realised in March 1920. A further sum of Rs. 20,000 was advanced to the colonists as land improvement loans. A sum of Rs. 10,571 was realised on account of land improvement loans. About 3,620 acres of land were reclaimed during the year against 2,290 acres in 1918-19. The progress in colonization reclamation assessment was considerable. The total expenditure incurred during 1919-20 on the colonization scheme amounted to Rs. 78,146. There were 42 Co-operative Credit Societies in the colonized area, against 40 in the preceding year.

Roads.

51. An aggregate sum of Rs. 3,02,525 was spent on roads and communications in Government estates, against a Government grant of Rs. 77,446 representing one and a half per cent. on the collections from Government estates. The excess expenditure was met from District Board and other local funds.

Education.

52. There were altogether 2,466 schools in Government estates and 75,387 pupils attending them during 1919-20, against the corresponding figures of 2,404 and 77,077, respectively, in the preceding year. The greatest increase was in the districts of the Chittagong Division, decreases being recorded only in the districts of Midnapore and the 24-Parganas. The total expenditure on education in Government estates amounted to Rs. 97,658 against the one per cent. grant of Rs. 52,182 assigned for the purpose, the excess expenditure being met from local funds.

Sale of estates.

53. Two whole estates and two portions of estates were sold in the year under report. Of the former one in Midnapore consisted of the land of a police outpost which was sold with revenue fixed in perpetuity; the other consisted of a small block of land transferred to the Calcutta Improvement Trust at its full market value. Of the latter the portion in Rajshahi consisted of a 1½ annas shares in a property escheated to Government, and was sold subject to revenue fixed in perpetuity; that in Noakhali consisted of lands relinquished by the Assam-Bengal Railway, and was sold free of revenue.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1919-20.]

Number of estates and payment of Government demand.

54. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards during the preceding year was 69. Four new estates were taken charge of during the year under report, and four estates including the remaining two portions of Janbazar Estate No. I were released. The estates under the charge of the Court of Wards included three small estates owned by some members of the Nawab family of Dacca and excluded some petty properties lying in the district of Mymensingh belonging to the Pallakandi Estate in the district of Sylhet.

A sum of Rs. 13,20,164 or 99 per cent. on the total demand was paid during the year on account of revenue and cesses due to Government, against 93 per cent. in the previous year.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

55. Rupees 5,42,344 was paid on account of rent and cesses due to superior landlords, and Rs. 1,14,659 remained outstanding at the close of the year. The payment amounted to 82·9 per cent. on the total demand and differed little from the percentage in the previous year. The heaviest balances were due from the Janbazar Estate No. I in the 24-Parganas, the Nawab Family and Bhawal Estates in the district of Dacca, Karatiya Estate in Mymensingh, Dasmina Estate in the district of Bakarganj, Paschimgaon Estate in Tippera, and the estates of Bharat Chandra Shaha and of Girindra Kumar Mazumdar in the district of Noakhali. The balances were due to non-adjustment of accounts with co-sharer landlords, to non-appearance of claimants and to shortness of funds.

Collection of rent and cesses.

56. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management during the year under review was returned at Rs. 1,24,12,741, including an arrear demand of Rs. 76,92,177. Out of this Rs. 49,96,083 or 40·2 per cent. was collected, against 40·8 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collection on current demand improved from 103·5 in the preceding year to 105·9. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was exceeded in 52 out of 66 estates. There was a considerable reduction in collections in the Syedpur Trust Estate in the district of Khulna. The collections in the Bhawal Estate were also very unsatisfactory, and this was largely due to the effects of the great cyclone of September 1919, which occurred when realisations on a large scale would normally have started.

57. A sum of Rs. 72,29,350, representing 153·1 per cent. on the current demand and 58·2 per cent. on the total demand, against the corresponding percentage of 147·2 and 58·01 in the preceding year, remained as outstanding balance due to all the estates at the close of the year. In the Basudebpur Estate in the Burdwan Division a sum of Rs. 19,595 was shown to be time-barred, and a sum of Rs. 14,148, as disputed. The arrears in the B. L. Mukharji's Trust Estate were ascribed to laxity in applying the certificate procedure. The other two estates showing heavy balances, namely, Pachetgarh and Nayabasan, were released after the close of the year. In the Presidency Division all the estates showing heavy arrears, viz., Gobardanga, Janbazar No. I and Tagore Estates, were released. In the Dacca Division a large proportion of the outstanding balances in the two biggest estates, viz., the Nawab Family Estate and the Bhawal Estate, was shown as time-barred. There was also a heavy balance in Bhukailash Estate No. III in the district of Bakarganj. In the Chittagong Division the outstanding balances were heavy in the Tippera portion of the Kasimbazar Estate and the Paschimgaon Estate. In the Rajshahi Division the heaviest balance was shown against Janbazar Estate No. II, about half of which amounting to nearly a lakh and a quarter of rupees had been shown as disputed.

Balances of rent and cesses due to estates.

58. Continued attention was paid to the repayment of the debts of the large number of involved estates under the Court. By the preparation of regular schemes for the repayment of debt the work of repayment was systematized, and it was possible to keep a close watch on the financial position of each estate. The total debts of all estates in the Presidency during the year under report stood at Rs. 37,13,697 against Rs. 58,36,946 in the previous year, and a sum of Rs. 4,62,933 was paid as interest on loans. The large reduction in the total amount of debt was mainly due to the sale of the properties of the Tagore Wards Estate in execution of a mortgage-decree obtained by the *Laha* creditors. In the Burdwan Division, the Pachetgarh Estate was released free from debts which had been repaid considerably in advance of the scheme figures. In the Presidency Division schemes were sanctioned for the repayment of the debt of the Mukharji Estate and Panihati Estate No. I; and repayment was made during the year strictly according to the schemes. In the Dacca Division, a scheme was sanctioned for the repayment of the debt of the heirs of the late Nawab Sir K. Salimulla Bahadur in the Nawab's Estate. Schemes were also sanctioned for the Golakpur and Sherpur Estates in the district of Mymensingh and of Deb Nath Dutt's Estate in the district of Bakarganj. The outstanding debts of the K. M. Ashruff's Estate and of the Bhawal Estate were small. In the Chittagong Division, schemes for the Bhukailash Estate No. I, Salamatali Khan's and Kalitara Sen Gupta's estates were also sanctioned. The preparation of only a few schemes for the repayment of the debt of other indebted estates in the Province formed the subject of correspondence with the local officers.

Debts of estates.

The original indebtedness of the estates under charge during the year was reduced from approximately 1 crore and 29 lakhs to rather more than 37 lakhs.

59. The percentage of cost of management in the current rent and cess demand of estates for the whole Presidency was 13·5 against 13·1 in the preceding year. The percentage (23·1) of cost in the Karatiya Estate in the district of Mymensingh, although reduced to some extent compared with the preceding year, was still very high, owing to the properties of the estate being scattered over extensive areas in several districts and the share of the Estate small in most of them. The high percentage of 21·2 in the Majdiha Estate in the district of Dinajpur was largely due to the payment of arrear dues to the *patwaris* and *kotwals* on account of their commission and pay for the year 1325 B.S.

Management charges.

60. The standards fixed for expenditure on education and on agricultural and sanitary improvements are one and three per cent. respectively, on the current rent and cess demand of an estate. The total amount expended during the year on all these heads and on other works of improvement by the estates in the whole Presidency aggregated to Rs. 2,15,042, against Rs. 1,82,082 in the preceding year. There were few solvent estates in the

Improvements.

Presidency and accordingly the expenditure on work of improvement was inconsiderable. A Resolution was issued in June 1919, explaining the policy of Government in the agricultural development of the Province, the need for co-operation by the public in testing, disseminating and utilising the results of investigations made by the Department being specially referred to. In accordance with this policy the Board of Revenue directed that these instructions should be followed in the Wards' Estates of the Province, and agricultural Sub-Overseers were, and are being, gradually entertained in all solvent estates to carry out the policy, under the supervision of the District Agricultural Officer.

Lady Adviser.

61. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, Lady Adviser to the Court of Wards, was, as usual, indefatigable in the discharge of the strenuous duties which her office involves and she was able to show considerable progress in the education and enlightenment of female wards.

Education of Wards.

62. The problem of the education of the wards received due attention, and the result was satisfactory. There was a proposal to utilise the Rajkumar College at Raipur in the Central Provinces as an institution for the education of male wards, but as it did not prove to be popular the Board of Revenue had to abandon it. The training of wards in survey and settlement camps continued and was of much value but little success was achieved in training them in actual zamindari management.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1919-20.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

63. The Bengal Tenancy Act is in force throughout the Presidency, except the district of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

64. Relations between landlords and tenants were, on the whole, fairly satisfactory though strained relations existed in certain parts of the Presidency. The most common causes of friction were the enhancement of rent, exaction of *abwabs*, disputes between co-sharer landlords leading to oppression of the tenants, and the mismanagement of estates by the local agents of absentee zamindars.

Rent receipts.

65. In 53 cases proceedings were taken for failure to grant rent receipts. Of these 27 cases ended in conviction, 18 were struck off or rejected, 2 were compromised, 2 were withdrawn, and 4 were pending at the close of the year.

Illegal cesses.

66. The levy of *abwabs* and other illegal exactions are made under different denominations, and the tenant ordinarily pays without demur in order to avoid breaking harmonious relations with his landlord. In Rangpur an illegal cess is levied by certain zamindars for the laudible object of education, but ordinarily the exactions are for the benefit of the landlords and their establishment. No suits were instituted during the year under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and it is clear that the warnings of Regulation I of 1793, and the specific provisions of the Tenancy Act are unable to stem the flood of exactions, which have now almost obtained the sanction of custom and usage. The Commissioner of Dacca, however, reported that the settlement operations had a beneficial effect in restricting the collection of *abwabs*. In Nadia the Settlement Officer wrote thus: "The report of the first eight *thanas* in which survey was completed last year and attestation is now going on reveal the existence of the *abwabs* even to a degree unheard of in other districts."

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative authorities.

See—

General Administration Report for 1912-13, Part II, Pages 13, 14.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed during 1919-20.

67. Five Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1919-20, all of which became law during the year. These Acts were:—

(1) *Bengal Act V of 1919* [The Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919].—This law was enacted for the purpose of developing an effective system of rural self-government. Village administration as distinct from the powers exercised by district and local boards had hitherto been confined to the union committees recognised by the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 (Bengal Act III of 1885) and to the chaukidari panchayats created by Act VI of 1870. It had long been admitted that neither class of body was satisfactory: from the standpoint of the village there was overlapping, while both functions and funds were inadequate to produce satisfactory results. The question was examined at length by the District Administration Committee, although the Act departs from their recommendations in various important respects, noticeably in abandoning the idea of circle boards. It amalgamates the functions of chaukidari panchayats with those of the union committees by creating a union board in every union having limited powers of self-taxation, etc., and entrusted with various responsibilities appertaining to the welfare of the village. Power is also given to form union benches and union courts from among the members of the union board for the administration of criminal and civil justice in simple cases within the union.

(2) *Bengal Act VI of 1919* [The Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919].—The object of this piece of legislation is to prevent the sale of adulterated articles of food, which has assumed serious proportions. It makes provision for ensuring the purity of the staple articles of food most liable to adulteration, such as milk, *ghee*, butter, mustard-oil, etc., in areas in Bengal outside Calcutta.

(3) *Bengal Act VII of 1919* [The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Act, 1919].—This Act amends the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, and the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866, on the lines of section 8 of the Police Act, 1861, and provides that a police officer under suspension shall continue subject to the same responsibilities, discipline and penalties, and to the same authorities as if he had not been suspended.

(4) *Bengal Act I of 1920* [The Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act, 1920].—This Act consolidates and re-enacts the law that was in force in Bengal for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and deals specially with overloading, the working of unfit animals and the practice of *phuka*.

(5) *Bengal Act II of 1920* [The Eastern Frontier Rifles (Bengal Battalion) Act, 1920].—This Act is designed to remove the anomaly involved in the application of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police Act, 1912 (Eastern Bengal and Assam Act III of 1912), which was intended for the combined Eastern Bengal and Assam military force, to two distinct forces in Bengal and Assam, which have taken the place of that force since the reconstitution of the provinces in 1912. It further changes the designation of the " Bengal Military Police " to the " Eastern Frontier Rifles (Bengal Battalion)."

Bill withdrawn during 1919-20.

68. *The Calcutta Municipal Bill, 1917*, which was introduced in Council on the 20th November, 1917, was withdrawn in open on the 3rd July 1919, on grounds of expediency.

Bills pending during 1919-20.

69. The following three Bills were pending before the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1919-20:—

(1) *The Bengal Alluvial Lands Bill, 1920.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 5th March 1920. Its object is to prevent riots in connection with the disputed possession of lands gained by alluvion, or by the dereliction of a river or the sea. It vests the Collector with powers to attach any newly-formed alluvial land if he is credibly informed that a dispute likely to cause a breach of the peace exists or is likely to arise in regard to such land, until the title to possession of the same is decided by the Civil Court.

(2) *The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Bill, 1920.*—This Bill, which was introduced in Council on the 15th March 1920, consolidates and amends the Bengal Drainage Act, 1880 (Bengal Act VI of 1880) and the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895 (Bengal Act VIII of 1895), with a view to the promotion of agricultural and sanitary works of improvement generally. It is also designed to cover both large and small schemes which are initiated or can be executed by any person or body of persons, such as a co-operative society or a local authority.

(3) *The Calcutta Rent Bill, 1920.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 15th March 1920, and was intended to afford protection to tenants against the payment of exorbitant rents to landlords who were in a position of temporary advantage owing to the scarcity of housing accommodation in Calcutta. The Bill provides for the restriction of rents for a period of three years.

Bengal Police.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1919-20.]

Administration.

70. The prevailing note of the report is the lament that financial stringency is hampering the work of the department in all directions, and preventing the expansion and increased efficiency which is demanded by progressive standards of provincial development. The Police Department cannot afford to stand still, but the increased cost of living, of equipment and of building threatens a retrogression unless the fact is accepted that the services rendered to the community by the department are worth paying for, and it is false economy to stunt its growth. It is urged that inadequate pay, apart from the risk of the depletion of the force through falling off in recruitment and increase in desertions and resignations, brings in its train deterioration of quality, physique, health and morals, while inadequate clothing and unsuitable lodging make themselves felt in a high sick rate. The postponement of the opening of new centres and of increasing the staff and reserves involves the overworking of the existing force. These evils can only be remedied by increased expenditure, and it will have to be faced in the near future. The department has only in late years begun to make up leeway; but the pace must be regulated with due consideration of the needs of the province in other directions and of its resources, and the immediate removal of all difficulties cannot be hoped for.

The past year has shown evidence of progress which, if slow, is steady; the expenditure on the force has risen by Rs. 10 lakhs and on buildings from Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 lakhs. During the year the pay of officers of the Imperial Service was revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Public Services in India; the pay of sergeants was increased while proposals for improving the pay and prospects of head constables received the sanction of the Secretary of State. Writer head constables will in future be called assistant sub-inspectors, and half the annual vacancies in the rank of sub-inspector will be filled by promotion from this new grade. Proposals have been submitted to the Secretary of State for the

formation of a probationary grade of sub-inspectors on the pay and allowances of the lowest grade, so that it will not be necessary in future to place officers, while still on training, in responsible charges. This should result in a general improvement in the quality of the work, which has hitherto had to be delegated to untrained men, and will at the same time, by relieving the leave reserve from other calls, enable leave to be given more freely. An Additional Superintendent of Police was sanctioned for the district of Burdwan with independent power to deal with the crime of the Asansol subdivision; the revised scale of the ordinary reserve of head constables and constables, sanction to which was received late in 1918, was partially introduced; and five new police-stations were established, but no less than 34 proposals for opening up new investigating centres are still awaiting funds.

The most important question is that of improving the conditions of service, especially in the subordinate ranks. The number of vacancies in the rank of constables, which was 500 in the preceding year, rose to over 900 at the close of the year, and there was a marked increase in the number of casualties; 343 men deserted during the year, 445 men were discharged, 318 dismissed and 1,170 resigned. There can be only one explanation of these figures, viz., that the work and pay are not sufficiently attractive to compete with other employments available to the class from which recruitment is made. After the close of the year the pay of constables has been raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 14 to Rs. 16 to Rs. 20, with an allowance of Rs. 2 for the armed branch.

Military police. River police.

71. Though, in view of economic distress and widespread industrial unrest, the past year has been a difficult one from the point of view of police administration, the work of the Bengal Police has maintained a good standard of efficiency. Appreciation has been expressed by Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief of the services of the officers and men of the Bengal Military Police who volunteered to serve with Indian units abroad in the war. The utility of the river police patrols has been acknowledged by the various Chambers of Commerce, and the services which the force rendered in relief work after the cyclone in Eastern Bengal in September have been eulogised by the officers in charge of the relief operations.

Village defence parties and volunteer patrols.

72. Co-operation rendered to the police by the general public in the suppression of crime was more in evidence. Joint patrols, union watch committees and village defence parties are phenomena of recent growth. Good work was done by the town volunteers of Hooghly, Chinsura, Serampore, Brahmanbaria, Diamond Harbour and Sadar subdivisions of the 24-Parganas.

Health.

73. The health of the force slightly improved, as compared with the previous year, and the admissions into hospital fell from 13,365 to 12,349, while the death-rate was lower. The previous year, however, was particularly unhealthy, owing to outbreaks of influenza, and the figures for 1919, which are in excess of those of 1917, cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The local officers attributed the sick rate largely to inadequacy of pay, deficient equipment in the way of boots, coats and mackintoshes, and unsuitable buildings.

Discipline.

74. There was a satisfactory increase in the number of men rewarded during the year, but the percentage of departmental punishment, though lower than in the preceding year, continued high, being 26 per cent. of the actual strength.

The proportion of officers and men judicially punished increased from 1·3 per cent. of the force in 1918 to 1·4. Of 529 criminal cases against the police which were disposed of during the year only 92 ended in conviction. In seven cases allegations of torture were made, but in no instance was the charge established. The majority of the convictions were for wrongful confinement. Of 46 civil suits instituted against members of the force during the year, 29 were dismissed, 2 were decreed and 15 were pending at the close of the year.

Village police.

75. The reports on the village police are, on the whole, encouraging, but the percentage of punishments inflicted is regrettably high, while the rewarding of good work is apparently neglected in some districts. The matter

merits particular attention. The Bengal Village Self-Government Bill has passed into law and better results may now be hoped for.

Finance.

76. The total cost of the department rose from rupees one crore and 5 lakhs to one crore and 15 lakhs. The revision of the pay of the Imperial Service officers contributed to the increase. Rupees 22 lakhs were spent on buildings, as compared with Rs. 18 lakhs in the previous year, but the cyclone of September 1919 largely, counterbalanced this improvement, and money urgently needed for further improvement has had to be diverted to making good the damage done.

Crime.

77. There was a small increase to the total volume of cognizable crime. The provincial total of serious crime was 73,926 cases against 65,302 cases in the previous year, and most of the more serious heads, except riot and murder, show an increase. This was large in the districts of the Burdwan and Rajshahi ranges, economic distress, floods and the cyclone being the main causes.

Revolutionary Crime.

78. Revolutionary crime still further decreased. There were 2 such dacoities in the year, as compared with 3 in 1918 and 9 in 1917. Under the terms of the King's Proclamation clemency was shown to persons placed under restraint in connection with offences againt the State. All those interned under the Defence of India Rules and the greater number of the State prisoners were released after the close of the year.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for the destruction of wild animals and snakes during 1919, Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Wild animals.

79. The number of persons killed by wild animals decreased from 310 in 1918 to 293 in 1919. There was an increase in the number of deaths caused by elephants, leopards and bears, the number being 16·81 and 8 against 10·68 and 5, respectively, in 1918.

The number of deaths caused by tigers shows a decrease, the number being 28 against 60 in the preceding year.

Snakes.

80. The number of persons who died from snake-bite decreased from 4,008 in 1918 to 3,689 in 1919, the decrease being in the Presidency, Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions where the figures declined from 1,195, 621, 1,084 and 139 in 1918, to 1,144, 466, 1,004 and 123, respectively, in 1919. The Burdwan Division and the town of Calcutta with its suburbs, however, show an increase of 20 and 3, respectively.

Destruction of wild animals.

81. There was a small decrease in the number of wild animals for the destruction of which rewards were paid, the number being 393 in 1919 against 416 in 1918. The number of tigers destroyed decreased from 104 in 1918 to 86 in 1919. The amount paid for the destruction of wild animals and snakes was Rs. 10,388 and Rs. 441, respectively, the corresponding figures for 1918 being Rs. 10,490 and Rs. 190.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1919-20.]

Administration.

82. The outstanding feature of the Police administration of Calcutta is its complexity. Calcutta is a great and wealthy city, with many densely-populated areas where modern conditions of police and traffic control are still impossible, a great port bounded by a long stretch of open river, the centre of a very important industrial area, a resort of foreigners and of people from all parts of India, and an important political focus. Its policing constitutes a problem in itself, distinct from that afforded by any other part

of the Presidency, and it becomes yearly more important that the full meaning of these facts should be realised. Calcutta has attained the status of a huge modern city and is still growing. It begun with a police administration based on that in force in rural and urban Bengal: it has steadily outgrown the potentialities of such a system, and this growth has been met by a series of adaptations that have approximated more and more to the model set by European cities of similar size and similar activities. There can be only one policy for the future, and that is the policy of definitely casting the administration into what may be called the metropolitan mould. This will mean increasing specialisation, increasing subdivision of activities under separate departments, and the employment more and more of men with special qualifications. Such an evolution will inevitably be accompanied by a growth of expenditure.

Apart from this internal process towards increasing cost, there is the external pressure exerted by the economic conditions of Calcutta. This pressure has been very noticeable during the year. It has become clear, for instance, that the housing of officers in hired houses (the total rents paid to private owners rose to Rs. 3,10,490) is uneconomical and administratively most undesirable. A loan appears to be the only solution of the difficulty, as it is obviously impossible to finance these building schemes within a reasonable time out of revenue. But besides capital outlay it is clear that the improvement in the pay of the lower branches of the force has not kept pace with the increase of economic pressure, and the result is seen in the difficulty of recruitment and in the tendency noticed by the Commissioner to a lower *morale*. Proposals to meet these difficulties were under consideration. As the cost of the administration thus increases the question must soon arise, whether Calcutta should not be called upon to pay more directly than it at present does for the service which administers and protects it.

83. Recruitment fell short of vacancies. The hope that, as army demobilisation progressed, recruitment would become easier, was not fulfilled, the high cost of living in Calcutta and the inadequacy of the pay and prospects offered are the reasons for the failure. **Recruitment.**

Crime in the aggregate increased by about 10,000 cases, the increase falling mainly under special and local laws. The general prevalence of industrial unrest produced a number of strikes, none of which, however, was attended by any disturbance of the peace.

The old question of the control of the unruly element known as *goondas* again came to the fore. The difficulties of holding these hooligans in check are numerous: prosecutions are impeded by the reluctance of parties to give evidence for the prosecution; the ordinary bad-livelihood sections of the Code are in some ways inapplicable to a large town, or at least it is not easy to enforce them; the areas most preyed upon afford facilities to criminals and it is hard to patrol them. An effective remedy would lie in an executive power to remove from the town those desperate characters who endanger the public peace in this way, and representative opinion is being consulted as to this or any other solution which may be feasible.

84. A riot necessitating the employment of armed force occurred in the northern part of the city on the 11th and 12th April. It was a sequel to the *satyagraha hartal* observed in the city on the 6th of that month, and was an echo of more serious disturbances which occurred elsewhere in the country. Its operations were fortunately restricted, and order was promptly restored by measures which the general sense of the public admitted to have been characterised by forbearance and moderation. **Riot.**

85. The rapid rise in the number of motor vehicles since the armistice and a steady increase in the number of traffic offences necessitated an improvement in the method of traffic control. Sanction was obtained to the centralization of a control hitherto divided between the Corporation and the Police under a specialised Police Department designated the Public Vehicles Department, having at its head a Deputy Commissioner of Police responsible solely for this branch of control. The officer designated to hold charge of the department was placed on special duty in London to study the details **Motor traffic.**

of traffic control in that city. He has now taken charge, and an improvement is looked for in this important branch of public convenience.

Fire Brigade. 86. The Fire Brigade maintained its record of good work, and coped with fires which involved property of considerably higher value than in the previous year.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of criminal justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1919. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administration and Judicial.]

Judicial staff. 87. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 10 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Six Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge. They were employed in Burdwan, Howrah, the 24-Parganas, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Bogra; they decided altogether 55 cases. Besides the above, eight temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed, one each at Howrah and Midnapore throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one at Rajshahi from the 30th July to the 24th September and again from the 8th December till the end of the year, one each at Bakarganj, Dacca and Pabna-Bogra till the 22nd September; one at Burdwan till the 31st January and one at Noakhali from the 30th June till the end of the year, exclusive of the vacation.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 367 stipendiary and 817 honorary magistrates. These figures, represent a decrease of 3 and 24, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One special magistrate was employed in Noakhali, where he decided 178 cases. Of the 367 stipendiary magistrates, 256 exercised first, 87 second, and 24 third class powers.

There were 134 benches of magistrates constituted from among 733 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of the total, 104 were independent and 30 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported. 88. There were 358,567 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 35,006 on the figures of 1918. Of the total, 193,466 were under the Indian Penal Code and 165,101 under special and local laws. These exceed the figures of 1918 by 20,175 and 14,831, respectively. The increase was most marked in Dacca, followed by the Presidency town, Faridpur, Tippera, Burdwan, Noakhali, Rangpur and Midnapore, as regards offences under the Penal Code; and in the Presidency town followed by Howrah, as regards offences under special and local laws.

False cases. 89. The number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 62,504 or 17·4 per cent. of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending enquiry at the close of 1918. The percentage for the preceding year was 16·6. Complaints were dismissed in 57,642 cases, or 8,449 more than in 1918. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 4,862, or 133 more than in 1918.

True cases. 90. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 293,398 were found to be true, and of these 227,753 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending in 18,702 cases at the close of the year. Compared with 1918, the number of cases found to be true and the number brought to trial show an increase of 24,274 and 13,009, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial. 91. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 97,102 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 130,651 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal.

A—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta : Cases for trial.

92. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, was greater by 12,923 than in 1918. The number of cases under special and local laws rose from 77,256 to 88,496 and that under the Penal Code from 6,923 to 8,606. The increase under the former head was most marked in offences under the Police Act, which rose from 47,309 to 52,257. The number of offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals rose from 6,889 to 10,596 and under the Bengal Motor Car and Cycle Act from 1,368 to 2,330. On the other hand, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of offences under the Hackney and Stage Carriages Acts, which fell from 1,521 to 902. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was an increase in offences against property, which rose from 2,164 to 3,023.

Before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the municipal magistrates, 79,654 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 19,628 were before stipendiary magistrates, 56,558 before honorary magistrates sitting singly, and 3,468 before benches. The corresponding figures for 1918 were 68,698, 19,540, 47,049 and 2,033, respectively; besides 86 cases were disposed of by a special magistrate. Four hundred and forty-four cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 42 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by magistrates, 228 under the ordinary, and the remainder under the summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the police magistrates was 22,329, as compared with 19,350 in 1918. The number of those who attended and were discharged without examination was 97 or ·4 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. Of the total number in attendance, 18,309 (81·6 per cent.) were discharged on the first, 3,893 (17;4 per cent.) on the second, 203 (·9 per cent.) on the third, and 21 (.1 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 15 less than in 1918.

The number of cases brought before the municipal magistrates was 17,366 and four cases were pending from the previous year. The number of cases disposed of was 17,367, of which 17,106 were decided under the summary procedure. Of the remaining three cases, the accused died in 2 cases and one was pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1918, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows an increase of 1,938 and 1,945, respectively. The number of witnesses examined before the municipal magistrates rose from 4,904 to 5,625. Of the witnesses in attendance, three were detained for more than three days.

Results of trials.

93. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the municipal magistrates, was 86,007. Of the persons tried, 5,592 were acquitted or discharged, 79,812 were convicted, three died, 69 were committed to the sessions, and 601 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 2,156 were compounded, withdrawn, or dismissed for default. Of the persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 6,136 were convicted and 3,764 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials before each class of magistrates during the year are shown below:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Stipendiary magistrates	3,334	17,225	83·7
Benches of ,, ...	166	3,414	95·3
Honorary magistrates sitting singly ...	2,092	59,173	96·5

Of the persons convicted, 2,473 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, including the cases of twenty-three persons who were sentenced to solitary confinement; 1,237 were punished with simple imprisonment, 70,368 with fine and 114 with whipping. Of the persons sentenced to fine 113 were so sentenced in addition to other punishments.

Of the sentences of whipping two were not in accordance with the Whipping Act of 1909. In both these cases, the sentences were executed.

Sentences of imprisonment passed in the cases of 63 youthful offenders, were commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Five thousand and fifty-eight convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 394 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 388 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 17 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 166 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the cases of 107 persons. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct shows a decrease of 23 as compared with 1918.

Before the municipal magistrates, 20,332 persons were under trial of whom 19,230 were convicted, 1,097 were acquitted or discharged, 3 died and 2 remained under trial at the close of the year. The percentage of convictions was 94·5. Of the persons convicted, 13,536 were punished with fines, and the remainder were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Calcutta Corporation.

B—Magistrates outside Calcutta : Cases for trial.

94. At the opening of the year, 5,943 cases, besides cases of lunatics, were pending before magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 130,677 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, 129,535 were disposed of and 7,037 remained pending at its close. In the remaining forty-eight cases, the accused died, escaped or were transferred. The number of cases brought to trial was 88 more than in 1918. Under the Indian Penal Code, there was a prominent increase in offences against property (4,795) and in offences affecting the human body (1,251). On the other hand, there was a considerable decrease in cases under special and local laws (5,744).

An increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from twenty, and a decrease from six districts. The increase was most marked in Dacca (1,023) while the largest decrease occurred in the 24-Parganas (7,033).

The increase in Dacca occurred both in cases under the Penal Code, and in cases under special and local laws; the increase under the former head was chiefly in offences against property and in offences affecting the human body. The decrease in the 24-Parganas was chiefly in cases under special and local laws, viz., the Police (Town) and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts.

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	122	11
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates ...	76,561	24,799
Honorary magistrates	18,059	539
Benches of magistrates	3,644	5,597
Special magistrates	178	.....

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 25 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was 959 less than in 1918. The decrease occurred in the courts of benches of magistrates, honorary magistrates and District Magistrates, who disposed of 2,411, 538 and 47 cases, respectively, less than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by the subordinate stipendiary magistrates and the special magistrate shows an increase of 1,979 and 58, respectively, as compared with 1918.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 158, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Midnapore (22).

Results of trials.

95. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 1,335 were committed or referred to the sessions, and 128,200 were finally disposed of by magistrates. In these latter, 181,936 persons were accused, or 1,008 less than in 1918. Of the total, 90,459 or 49·7 per cent. were convicted and 91,477 or 50·3 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. In 1918, 53·4 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted.

Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 46,928 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 67 per cent. against 71·4 in 1918.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 31,824 or 30·3 per cent. were convicted, and 73,049 or 69·7 per cent. acquitted or discharged. Of the latter, the cases of 41,257 persons were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried under the Penal Code was 50 against 52·5 in 1918.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before magistrates at the close of 1919 was 12,208, as compared with 10,839 in 1918. Of these, 22 who were on bail were awaiting trial for more than six months. Explanations of delays in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months, submitted by the magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court, and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 987 against 1,064 in 1918.

The general result of trials before magistrates of each class was as follows:—

Class of Magistrates.	Number of persons.		
	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Benches of magistrates	4,082	7,789	65·6
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates ...	75,801	68,931	47·6
Honorary magistrates	11,229	13,589	54·7
Special magistrates	239	38	13·7
District magistrates	126	112	47

Of the persons shown above as convicted, the numbers tried summarily were 6,314 by benches of magistrates; 25,825 by subordinate stipendiary magistrate; 596 by honorary magistrates; and 15 by District Magistrates.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

Nature of trial.	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	37,263	20,151
On summary trial	3,287	29,059

Punishments.

96. The sentences passed on persons convicted, were as follows:—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous	16,778
	Simple	1,159
Fine	With imprisonment	2,500
	Without imprisonment	64,154
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	456
	Additional punishment	2

A term of solitary confinement was included in 40 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the cases of 26 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school. Four thousand and thirty-one persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 3,812 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. Six hundred and fifty four persons against 493 in 1918 were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against 43 persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken and 36 were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 4,148 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom, 1,101 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,077 were for terms not exceeding fifteen days; 11,416 for terms not exceeding six months; 6,174 for terms not exceeding two years; and 56 for terms exceeding two years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 458 persons, as against 383 in the preceding year. Of these, six against five in 1918, were not in accordance with the Whipping Act of 1909. In all these cases the sentences were executed.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 7,34,769. Rs. 5,97,309 were realised, of which Rs. 82,717 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings.

97. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by magistrates in the mufassal:—

Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter VIII.

98. There were 2,738 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 11,825 persons were involved. The number of cases and persons involved was more than the number brought before the courts in 1918. Of the persons concerned, 3,047 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Bakarganj (2,209), followed by Khulna (2,028), Faridpur (1,757) and Mymensingh (1,030). Bakarganj has headed the list since 1913. Compared with the figures of 1918 there was a large increase in the number of proceedings of this class in Khulna, Bakarganj and Faridpur and a marked decrease in Bogra and Pabna.

In 2,194 cases, 5,597 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 4,440. Of these, 4,217 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 405 after reference to the courts of session under section 123 of the Code, and 3,812 under orders of magistrates, for terms not exceeding one year.

Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

99. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 807 cases, and in the cases of 294 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land decided by magistrates, was 1,084, showing a decrease of 68 on the figures for 1918. Four hundred and thirty-four complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, under section 250 of the Code, as the accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 862 persons, and orders were made absolute against 233.

Witnesses.

100. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 365,373, as compared with 357,382 in 1918. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 172,565, or 32 per cent., of the whole number in attendance; the percentage in the preceding year was 32·6. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 2,13,805 in 1918 to Rs. 2,47,850 in 1919. Of the total number in attendance, 391,018 (72·7 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 103,576 (19·3 per cent.) on the second day; 33,910 (6·3 per cent.,) on the third day; and 9,437 (1·7 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 1,083 more than in 1918. The districts in which the largest percentage of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Bakarganj (4·4), Jalpaiguri (3·8) and Howrah (2·8). Explanations of these detentions have been dealt with by the High Court.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

101. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,335, or 46 less than in 1918; and the number decided, including the case pending from the previous year, was 1,282 or 77 less than in 1918. There were

220 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments decreased in 16 districts and increased in ten. The decrease was marked in the following districts; in Tippera from 68 to 38, in the 24-Parganas from 97 to 69, in Jalpaiguri from 51 to 25, in Khulna from 61 to 43, in Hooghly from 59 to 41 and in Dacca from 85 to 70. The increase was noticeable in Bakarganj from 142 to 171, in Bogra from 49 to 73, in Rajshahi from 35 to 55, in Mymensingh from 135 to 151, in Burdwan from 38 to 53, and in Murshidabad from 18 to 32. The number of commitments was, as in the previous year, largest in Bakarganj (171).

Results of trials.

102. Ther were 3,702 persons, or 39 less than in 1918, under trial before the courts of session. The cases of 3,091 persons were decided and 592 remained under trail at the close of the year. Of the 3,091 persons tried, 1,771, or 57·2 per cent. were convicted and 1,163 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 156 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

103. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session:—

Death		3
Transportation	for life	73
	for a term of years	71
Imprisonment	rigorous	1,190
	simple	15
Fine		39
Whipping		5

Of those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences in the cases of eight persons included terms of solitary confinement. Twenty-eight of the sentences of fine and four of whipping were additional punishments. In the case of one youthful offender the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Besides the above, 405 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (21 for terms not exceeding one year and 384 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour. Fourteen persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to excute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment. Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	20
	6 months	101
	2 years	509
	7 „	944
Exceeding	7 „	37

Fines to the amount of Rs. 9,070 were imposed by courts of session, as compared with Rs. 11,677 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 2,204, as compared with Rs. 2,270 in 1918. The amount of the fines realised and paid as compensation fell from Rs. 175 to Rs. 150.

Jury trials.

104. The number of persons tried by jury was 2,341 and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 2,060 and disapproved of it in respect of 281 persons. The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 153 persons and referred the cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, reference and revision."

Trials with the aid of assessors.

105. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 90. In the cases of 50 persons the Sessions Judge concurred in the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 16 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the cases of 24 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1918 were 1,419, 982, 189 and 248, respectively. The fall in the number of cases tried with the aid of assessors is due to the extension of the system of trial by jury.

Duration of cases.

106. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 44·8 days in 1918 to 47·6 days in 1919. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration.

The duration of cases was highest in the district of the 24-Parganas (95), followed by Rajshahi (62·4) and Burdwan (16·9). There was a marked increase from 3·5 to 62·4 days in Rajshahi, owing, among other causes, to the size of certain cases, and to changes in personnel; from 71 to 95 days in the 24-Parganas, from 39·1 to 61·9 days in Burdwan and from 27·2 to 44 days in Rangpur. On the other hand, there was a noticeable reduction from 68·6 to 39·2 days in Hooghly, from 60 to 47 days in Howrah and from 51·7 to 39·2 days in Noakhali.

Witnesses.

107. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 24,365. Of these, 15,403 were examined and 8,962 discharged without examination against 16,888 and 11,163, respectively, in 1918. Of the total number in attendance 10,172 (41·8 per cent.) were discharged in the first day; 7,264 (29·8 per cent.) on the second day; 3,896 (16 per cent.) on the third day; and 3,033 (12·4 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day was smaller than in 1918 (·7 per cent.). The High Court have taken due notice of cases of excessive detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 76,676 as compared with Rs. 82,178 in 1918.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

108. Seven cases were pending at the commencement of the year, and 45 cases were brought to trial during the year. Of these, 50 including three cases of European British subjects (two committed from the 24-Parganas and one from Howrah) were tried during the year and two remained undecided at its close.

Altogether 73 persons were tried, of whom 34 were convicted and 39 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 582 and the average duration of cases from commitment was 49·3 days, against 48·8 days in 1918.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

109. At the opening of the year, 44 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year, 583 appeals were preferred and 579 were decided, leaving 48 pending at its close. The number preferred and decided was each 73 less than in the preceding year. The pending file shows an increase of four appeals. Of the appeals preferred against sentences, 462 were from courts of session and 120 from courts of Presidency Magistrates. One appeal was preferred by the Local Government against an order of acquittal.

Results of Appeals.

110. Four hundred and sixty-one appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 393, reversed in 13, and modified in 49 instances. Six cases were remanded for re-trial. One hundred and seventeen appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 111, modified in two and reversed in three, cases. One case was remanded for re-trial. The results of appeals decided, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 781 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals, the sentences on 98 appellants were confirmed, on 91 reduced or altered, and on 28 annulled. In the cases of 23 persons, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Appeal against acquittal.

111. The appeal preferred by the Local Government was against an order of acquittal passed by a Sessions Judge in respect of two persons who were convicted and sentenced to various terms of rigorous imprisonment and fine by a subdivisional magistrate, under sections 120B, 120B/417, 120B/420, 511/417, 120B/511, 406/511 and 120B read with sections 406/511 of the Indian Penal Code. The High Court set aside the order of acquittal and convicted the accused on the second and third charges and sentenced them each to undergo one year's rigorous imprisonment on each charge, the sentences to run concurrently.

II.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

112. There were 177 appeals pending before the courts of session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,573 appeals were preferred, 3,547 were decided and 204 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 223 more than in 1918. In the appeals decided, 5,683 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,401 persons, or 24·6 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 1,915 appellants, whose appeals were admittted were altogether unsuccessful; 1,146 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 1,166 were acquitted; and in the cases of 53 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The cases of two persons were referred to the High Court.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal was 58·3, 20·1 and 20·5, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the proportions were 44·7, 26·7 and 27·2 per cent. In the case of admitted appeals, the results were more favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

113. In the courts of magistrates, 107 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,449 appeals were preferred, 3,352 were decided and 204 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was 16 more than in 1918. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of magistrates was 5,718. Of these, the appeals of 1,492 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,210, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,702 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 64·7 per cent. Of the remainder, 637 appellants, or 11·1 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,321, or 23·1 per cent., their total annulment. In the cases of 53 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and the cases of five persons were referred to the High Court. Compared with 1918, the results on the whole were slightly less favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

114. Seven references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from the verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 73 were made during the year. Seventy-five of these references were decided during the year and five remained undecided at its close. Of the 75 cases disposed of, the verdict of the jury was accepted in 25, set aside in 43, and modified in six cases. One case was remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

115. Three references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1919, and one was pending at the opening of the year. Four cases in which 4 persons were concerned were decided during the year. The death sentence was confirmed in the cases of two persons, and commuted to transportation for life in the case of another. The remaining person was acquitted.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

116. The case of one person, who though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, was referred for the orders of the High Court. The High Court acquitted the accused of the offence with which he was charged under section 302, Indian Penal Code, but directed his detention in a lunatic asylum as a criminal lunatic under the provisions of section 471 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by Act X of 1914.

Revision.

117. During the year, 163 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 13 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these 156 were decided and 20 remained pending. The number reported was 12 more than in 1918. In 79 cases the orders sent up

for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 13 a new trial was ordered. In 18 cases the sentences were reduced or altered, and in the remaining 46 cases, the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,052 cases, an increase of 13 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,046 came before the High Court on application and six were taken up by the court on review of sessions statements or otherwise of its own motion.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 618 were rejected. Of 428 rules issued, 151 were finally discharged; 126 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 82 cases and quashed in 23. In the remaining 46 cases, a new trial was ordered. In five out of the six cases taken up by the High Court *suo motu* the orders passed by the lower court were not disturbed; and in the remaining case the sentence was reversed.

Applications for transfer.

118. Fifty-four applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (52 original cases and 2 appeals) from one court or district to another were received. Of these, 52 were disposed of and 2 remained pending at the close of the year. Thirty were summarily rejected, and in three cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 19 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 12 and refused in 7, cases.

II.—Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

119. Including the cases of accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of magistrates, and of those against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 7,307 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number was 431 less than in 1918. The applications of 2,061 persons were rejected, while the orders of the lower courts were confirmed in the cases of 2,467 persons. The orders passed were reversed in cases of 70 persons and modified in those of four. The cases of 218 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,487 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

120. The cases of 3,366 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was 552 more than in 1918. Of the total the applications of 1,185 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 927 the original sentence or order was upheld. The sentences or orders were modified in the cases of 50 persons, and reversed in those of 226 persons; the proceedings were quashed in the cases of 53 persons, and new trials or further inquiries were directed in those of 850 persons. The cases of 75 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British Subjects.

121. The cases of 49 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 24 in the previous year. Of these, 46 were dealt with by magistrates and 3 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, none claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the case disposed of, 27 persons were convicted and 22 were acquitted, in 18 cases the convictions were for offences under special and local laws; in two cases for offences against property; in six cases for offences affecting the human body and in another for offence under the Indian Defence Force Act and the Registration Ordinance and Rules, 1917. The number of European British subjects tried was largest in the 24-Parganas (27).

Results of revisional work.

122. Compared with the figures of 1918 there was a considerable increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates in the Presidency town; but there was a slight decrease in the number of such cases

disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal. There was also a decrease in the appellate work disposed of by magistrates, but a slight increase is noticeable in the revisional work disposed of by them. In the courts of session there was a slight decrease in the outturn of original work but an increase in that of appellate and revisional work. In the High Court, there was an increase in original and revisional work, but a decrease in appellate work.

Four persons (three in the Presidency Town and one in Mymensingh) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, one was acquitted, one convicted and two remained under trial at the close of the year.

During the year under review, illegal sentences of whipping were passed in eight cases, as against five in 1918.

Receipts and charges.

123. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 26,50,131, of this amount Rs. 13,93,073 were for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 1,39,869 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 1,01,475 for process servers; Rs. 4,50,731 for other establishments; and Rs. 5,64,983 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 17,64,888. Of this amount, Rs. 9,15,972 were under fines; Rs. 1,62,399 under process-fees; Rs. 1,61,551 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 3,90,688 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 1,34,278 were miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1918, the receipts show an increase of over Rs. 75,000 and the charges an increase of over Rs. 47,000.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

124. The number of cases brought to trial during 1919 in the scheduled district of Chittagong Hill Tracts was 176. The total number of cases disposed of was 120. The number of witnesses examined was 507. The total number of persons under trial, including those awaiting trial from the previous year, was 248; of these 147 were acquitted or discharged and 89 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 29 were for theft, 13 for criminal trespass and 20 for offences under special and local laws. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 40, of whom 13 were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1919. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Jail population.

125. The appointment of the Committee to investigate the system of prison administration in India naturally overshadowed the working of the jails in Bengal during the year, and the considered opinion of the Committee on various pending questions is awaited with interest. Any large reforms that may be advocated will, to some extent at least, be dependent on the suitability of the existing jail buildings for their introduction, and the chief defect in Bengal, viz., the overcrowded condition of most of the jails throughout the year, will still continue until more funds can be devoted to the enlargement of existing structures. Admissions in the past year were 4,905 more than in the preceding year, but the situation was relieved by the release of 2,338 prisoners on the occasion of the Peace celebration, and the grant of partial remissions of sentence to 8,000 others; this resulted in the average daily population being reduced to 15,887 or 874 less than in the preceding year.

Jail offence.

126. The number of jail offences further decreased, as compared with the previous year, the ratio of total punishments to daily population being 135, as against 142 in 1918. The penalty of whipping was inflicted in 40 cases, as compared with 42 in the previous year.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

127. The year was not a healthy one; though the number of admissions to hospitals decreased, and the daily average number of sick was 878 against 963 in the previous year, the death-rate rose from 21·3 to 22·9, the total number of deaths being 365 against 358 or higher than in any of the previous four years. The rise, however, corresponds to a similar rise in the case of the general population, and was largely due to the prevalence of influenza and cholera. Apart from epidemics, scarcity and hardships resulting from the cyclone in Eastern Bengal lowered the stamina of new admissions. Influenza appeared again in an epidemic form, and altogether 2,022 cases occurred, of which 67 proved fatal. The Presidency, Berhampore, Comilla, Barisal and Dacca Jails had most cases, although otherwise the Berhampore and Comilla Jails showed excellent records. The most unhealthy jails were Burdwan, Khulna, Mymensingh and Malda, and the healthiest Berhampore and Comilla.

Dietary.

128. The popularity of the wheat scale dietary continued. The use of wheat at one daily meal in lieu of rice has extended, and considerably more than half the prisoners have now voluntarily adopted this diet. Statistics show that the incidence of bowel complaints is apparently less among them than among those on the ordinary rice diet. The average cost per prisoner on rice diet was Rs. 4-8-7, and on wheat scale diet was Rs. 5-2-10.

Juvenile jail.

129. The Juvenile Jail at Alipore continued to do good work. The star class system instituted during the last few years has worked fairly well. The school which was started experimentally for the benefit of the inmates of the jail having proved a success, has been made permanent, and hopeful results in physical and moral training were obtained; jail offences are steadily decreasing. The "Prisoners' Aid Society" and the "After-care Association," whose object is to provide work for juvenile prisoners on release, are rendering useful assistance, but there is still much scope for better organisation and more practical sympathy from the public. The value of the quinine sold by the jail during the year amounted to over Rs. 5 lakhs, the profit on which exceeded Rs. 2 lakhs.

Jail industries.

130. The outturn of jail manufactures exceeded that of the previous year, and the net cash earnings rose from Rs. 84,589 in the previous year to Rs. 5,31,142 in the year under report. There was a decrease in the outturn and profit of the Presidency Jail owing to the decrease in orders from Government departments. The Midnapore Central Jail was hampered in manufacturing uniforms for the Police Department by delay in receiving materials from the Munitions Board. The manufacture of woollen blankets in the Rajshahi Jail was limited so as not to interfere with the Dacca blanket factory which had ceased to supply blankets to the Military Department.

Warder service.

131. The conduct of the warder staff continued to be satisfactory. There was a slight increase in the number of departmental punishments. Fifty-eight warders resigned against 82 in the previous year. The decrease is satisfactory, and is probably due to the sanction given by the Secretary of State to pensions for the warder establishment; but the number of resignations is still high and considerable difficulty is met in recruiting. The improvement in recent years in the conditions of service of the warders appears to have been overtaken by the rise in the cost of living. A scheme for improving the conditions of the jailor service has been sanctioned since the close of the year.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1919. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff.

132. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1919 consisted of 14 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 10 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and five Judges of the Presidency

Small Cause Court, three Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 43 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and two the powers of a Munsif.

The following changes in the personnel of the High Court took place during the year:—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. C. Rankin continued to act as an Additional Judge till the 27th October, when he was placed on deputation in connection with the Disorders Enquiry Committee. Mr. E. B. H. Panton continued to officiate as a Judge till the 26th February, and Mr. A. H. Cuming officiated as a Judge from the 27th February till the 25th March, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, Kt., on deputation with the University Commission. Mr. E. B. H. Panton and Mr. A. H. Cuming again officiated as Judges, the former from the 27th February till the 28th August, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Teunon on combined leave and the latter from the 7th April till the 28th August, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Richardson on furlough. Mr. H. P. Duval officiated as a Judge from the 18th April till the 28th August, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft on furlough. The Hon'ble Sir C. W. Chitty, Kt., resigned his office from the 24th April. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. C. Ghose officiated as a Judge from the 15th to 25th July when he was confirmed in the vacancy, *vice* Sir C. W. Chitty. Mr. E. B. H. Panton again officiated as a Judge from the 10th November till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rankin on deputation. Mr. P. L. Buckland officiated as a Judge from the 10th November till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir J. G. Woodroffe, Kt., on furlough.

In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments in the subordinate courts were sanctioned during the year:—

Temporary additional District Judges were employed—one each at Howrah and Midnapur throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one each at Bakarganj, Dacca and Pabna-Bogra till the 22nd September; one at Burdwan till the 31st January; one at Noakhali from the 30th June till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; and one at Rajshahi from the 30th July till the 24th September and again from the 8th December till the end of the year.

The appointment of the Additional Judge in the Presidency Small Court was continued.

Temporary additional Subordinate Judges were employed—one at Bakarganj till the end of the year; one at Howrah throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one at Rajshahi till the 5th May; one at Dinajpur till the 1st April; one at Hooghly till the 23rd March; one at Pabna-Bogra till the 15th March; one at Chittagong from the 25th March to the 22nd September; and one at Rangpur from the 15th August till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.

Temporary Additional Munsifs were employed—one each at Chittagong, Dacca, Dinajpur (Balurghat), Khulna and Pabna-Bogra (Serajganj) and two at Mymensingh (Iswarganj and Jamalpur) throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; two at Rajshahi (Boalia and Naogaon) from the 1st March and the 2nd December, respectively, till the end of the year; one at Hooghly (Amta) from the 2nd June till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; two at Noakhali (Sudharam and Lakhmipur) for three months each from the 2nd and 26th July, respectively. Two Additional Munsifs were also employed—one at Sadar and the other at Iswarganj, in the district of Mymensingh, till the 22nd September. An Additional Munsif was also employed at Mymensingh (Sadar) from the 1st December till the end of the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits.

133. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1918 was 2,623, including 54 suits received by transfer from other Courts; and the number instituted during 1919 was 2,776, including 49 suits received by transfer from other Courts and two remanded for re-trial during the year, making a total of 5,399 for disposal in 1919. Of the suits instituted during 1919, 2,061 were for money or moveable property, 86 were mortgage suits, and 104 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 3,13,30,077, as compared with Rs. 1,61,07,627 in the previous year. The number of suits decided in 1919 was 1,482. The number undisposed of at the end of the year was 3,917. The number pending at the close of the year exceeded the number pending at the close of the previous year by 1,294. There were 1,669 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 475 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided—

508 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution,
33 were withdrawn with leave,
86 were determined by compromise,
99 were decreed on confession,
336 were decreed *ex parte*,
23 were disposed of by reference to arbitration,
296 were decreed after contest, and
101 were dismissed after contest.

Prize Cases.

134. The cases against seven ships (in respect of six of which orders had previously been made for delivery to the Lords of the Admiralty upon their requisition) and one claim against the cargo of another referred to in the Reports of the previous three years were still pending at the close of the year.

Cases under the extraordinary Jurisdiction.

135. At the commencement of the year, six suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and two suits were transferred to it during the year. Of these, two were disposed of during the year, and six remained pending at its close.

Probates and letters of administration etc.

136. During the year 561 petitions for probate and letters of administration and 12,699 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians & Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, for summonses to witnesses, for special leave to file written statements after time) were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications, 6,643 were disposed of by the Court, or by a Judge in Chambers, and the remainder (6,056) by the Registrar and the Master.

References to take accounts, etc.

137. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, and in like matters pending at the commencement of the year was 124. Fresh references were directed by the court in 315 cases. Of the total, 305 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Conveyances and Sureties.

138. During the year the Registrar settled six conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in one hundred and four cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 263 matters, in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the Original Jurisdiction.

139. The number of appeals pending from the previous year was 68 and 119 new appeals were preferred to the Appellate Side of the Court. Of these, 12 were dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted, and 89 were decided. Of the latter, the decrees of the courts of first instance were affirmed in 58, modified in 9 and reversed in 20 cases; two cases were remanded for re-trial. Eighty-six appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, of which one had been pending for more than two years.

References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

140. No reference was pending from the previous year. One reference was made and disposed of during the year.

Applications for the transfer of cases from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

141. Thirty-four cases, transferred under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and forty-one cases were transferred on applications made under that section during the year. Of the 75 cases for disposal, three were dismissed for default, one was compromised, four were decreed after contest and two were dismissed after contest. The remaining 65 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Fourteen cases transferred under section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure were pending at the commencement of the year, and six cases were transferred under that section during the year. Of the 20 cases for disposal, one was disposed of and nineteen remained pending at the close of the year.

Three applications, under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes, were pending at the commencement of the year and eight such applications were made during the year, making a total of 11 cases for disposal. Of these three applications were refused, in three cases the rules issued were discharged, in three cases the rules issued were made absolute, and two cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Special Bench cases.

142. An application was made by the Keeper of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika Press" and Secretary of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika, Ltd.," against an order for forfeiture passed by the Government of Bengal in respect and in consequence of certain articles published in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" newspaper. The application was heard by a Special Bench composed of three Judges and was dismissed with costs.

Insolvency cases.

143. The number of cases, under the old and new Acts, pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 687, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 139. Of the 989 cases for disposal, 56 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 14 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 42. One thousand eight hundred and four applications of a miscellaneous character were also disposed of during the year.

Duration of sittings.

144. For the hearing of original suits and applications, one Judge sat alone for 47 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 94 days, and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 64 days. The Insolvency Court engaged the time of one Judge for 25 days. Appeals from the Original Side and References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes occupied a Bench of two Judges for 118 days, and a bench of three Judges for 37 days; and the hearing of the application under the Indian Press Act occupied a bench of three Judges for five days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

145. Seven appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and two were admitted during the year. None of these was disposed of during the year.

Receipts and expenditure.

146. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1919 were Rs. 21,91,537-2-4 and Rs. 5,78,008,-0-5, respectively.

Taxing Office.

147. The number of bills between party and party taxed during the year was 918, and of bills between attorney and client was 388.

The Court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 18,843-8-0. This sum is also included in the item "other fees realised by means of stamps."

Financial Results.

148. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including, under the head of expenditure, the salaries of the Judges:—

Year.	Receipts (*a*).	Receipts (*b*).	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1917	9,52,865	3,85,062	5,39,085
1918	13,22,591	4,54,204	5,32,976
1919	21,91,537	5,56,800	5,78,008

(*a*) Including the duty raised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.
(*b*) Excluding ditto ditto ditto.

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal Subordinate to the High Court.

Original suits instituted.

149. The number of suits instituted in 1919 was 722,034, an increase of 12,124 on the figures of the previous year. The increase occurred in title and money suits to the extent of 20·7 and 1·07 per cent., respectively. The number of title suits instituted was 73,841, against 61,147 in 1918. The total value of suits instituted in 1919 amounted to Rs. 11,60,61,677, showing an increase of Rs. 2,54,00,356 on the total for 1918. The increase is due to the rise in the aggregate value of money and title suits.

Local distribution.

150. There was an increase in the number of suits institued in 1919 in all districts, except Tippera, Dacca, Noakhali, Mymensingh, Murshidabad, Hooghly, Chittagong, Pabna-Bogra and Birbhum. The increase was marked in Jessore, Khulna, Rangpur and Bankura and occurred chiefly in rent suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (70,898), where the number of rent, money and title suits (34,620, 28,580 and 7,698, respectively) was the heaviest in the province In no other district did the institutions exceed 50,000.

In the 24-Parganas, Bakarganj, Dacca, Tippera, Faridpur and Midnapur institutions were between 40,000 and 50,000. In respect of rent suits, Mymensigh held the first place with 34,620 institutions and Bakarganj the second place with 32,535 institutions. In the districts of Rangpur, Jessore, Noakhali and Chittagong the institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000, in Dinajpur, Nadia, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Pabna-Bogra, Rajshahi, Burdwan and Khulna between 20,000 and 30,000, and in Birbhum between 15,000 and 20,000. Bankura with 14,985 shows the lowest figures.

Nature of suits instituted.

151. The majority of suits instituted was, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show:—

	Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Not exceeding ... ... Rs. 10 ...	13,076	85,115	3,397
„ 50 ...	1,13,425	1,85,121	16,207
„ 100 ...	67,878	58,107	11,537
„ 500 ...	76,446	39,733	30,955
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated.	6,723	2,569	11,745
Total ...	2,77,548	3,70,645	73,841

In suits for money or moveables 45·5 per cent. and in rent suits 72·9 per cent. were for sums of less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 97·4 per cent. were for realization of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 46·6 per cent. were mortgage suits, 38·7 per cent. were for immoveable property, and 4·1 per cent. were for specific relief. The title suits represent in value more than half the total litigation of the province. Of the fifty suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, forty-eight were title suits and two were money suits.

Number of suits disposed of.

152. In addition to the 722,034 suits instituted during the year there were 192,242 suits pending trial from the previous year, and 11,402 suits were revived or received on remand or review, making a total of 925,678 suits for disposal. The number of suits disposed of was 723,931, a decrease of 6,065 on the figures of 1918. Of the total number, 694,633 were disposed of by Munsifs, 15,187 by Subordinate Judges, 13,628 by Small Cause Court Judges and 483 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show a decrease in all grades of courts, except in the courts of District and Additional Judges.

Results of suits decided.

153. In the suits disposed of during the year plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 129,089 cases, or 17·8 per cent., of which 103,270 were dismissed for default; a compromise was effected in 77,524 cases, or 10·7 per cent., and plaintiffs were successful in 517,318 cases, or 71·5 per cent. The results are less favourable to plaintiffs than in the preceding year. Of the 90,940 suits decided on contest, 77,463, or 85·2 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 13,477, or 14·8 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for retrial.

154. The percentage of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex parte*, was 4·6, the numbers being 513,612 and 23,656, respectively. The applications were successful in 9,996 cases, or 42·2 per cent.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

155. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs fell from 698,773 to 694,633, a decrease of 4,140. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,800 against 2,840 in 1918. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 27·2 per cent. of the total. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 85,935, or 12·4 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 347 against 372 in 1918. The percentage of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure was 13·1 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 10;3. The figures are:—

Under ordinary procedure.		Under the Small Cause Court procedure.		Total.
Contested.	Uncontested.	Contested.	Uncontested.	
66,407	438,730	19,528	169,968	694,633

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 3,040 as compared with 1918.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.

156. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 15,187, a decrease of 1,235 on the figures of the previous year. The decrease was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and Small Cause Court procedure and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 5,134 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 10,053; of these, 31·1 per cent. and 15·2 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure shows a decrease, and that of suits decided after contest under the Small Cause Court procedure a slight increase as compared with the previous year. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 13,628 original suits, of which 1,720 were contested. The latter shows a decrease of 238 as compared with the previous year.

Average duration of suits.

157. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement:—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	296	541	238	...
	Uncontested ...	205	277	129	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	112	101	105
	Uncontested ...	...	68	65	62

The results show a general increase in the average duration of suits, except in respect of uncontested suits under the Small Cause Court procedure.

Pending suits.

158. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 202,210 against 192,242 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to larger institutions during the year. Of the pending cases, 6,026 had been pending for more than a year, 70,686 for more than six months and 49,927 for more than three months. The figures show a considerable increase in the arrears. Of the suits pending over one year, 3,419 were in the courts of Munsifs and 2,607 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges; the figures show an increase of 785 and 352, respectively, as compared with 1918. The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Dacca (1,016), followed by Faridpur (552), Bakarganj (524), Noakhali (493) and Hooghly (476). As compared with the figures of the previous year, the number of year-old suits shows an increase in Dacca, Bakarganj, Noakhali and Hooghly and a decrease in Faridpur. In Dacca the congestion was chiefly in the courts of Subordinate Judges. In the other three districts it occurred principally in the Munsifs courts. As usual, the delays were generally due to adjournments granted at the request of the parties. Additional assistance was given where necessary.

Execution proceedings.

159. There were 121,418 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 530,931 applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 157,693 cases and partial in 94,656. In 259,759 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 128,708 cases remained pending at the close of the year. As in the previous year, the number of cases in which execution proceedings were unsuccessful was most marked in Dacca, Faridpur and Tippera, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings in these districts being 76·7, 64 and 58·9, respectively. The total amount realized in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 2,15,78,817.

Debtors were imprisoned in 114 cases; moveable property was sold in 10,439 and immoveable property in 70,716 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

160. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 86,983 to 94,202. The number disposed of and pending also rose from 87,393 and 20,838 to 91,318 and 24,723, respectively. Of the cases disposed of, 45,986 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 28,875 were decided *ex parte*, and 16,457 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 49·1 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 267 had been pending over a year, Hooghly being responsible for the largest number (63).

The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted was 7,019, showing an increase of 273. Of these, more than half were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 7,330 and the pending file fell from 1,129 to 813. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in the 24-Parganas (547), followed by Midnapur (451), Hooghly (375), Rajshahi (345), and Bakarganj (299).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

161. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1919 and the number pending at its close were 25,293, 24,773, and 7,577, respectively. The figures show an increase of 2,957, 3,164, and 1,721, respectively, as compared with the previous year. Forty-two applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at sums not exceeding Rs. 10. The total value of the litigation was Rs. 78,20,112, as against Rs. 57,16,693 in the preceding year.

The average duration of contested and uncontested suits was 146·5 and 77·7 days, against 113·2 and 53·7, respectively, in 1918.

Mode of disposal.

162. Of the suits disposed of, 1,250 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 19,008 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 4,507 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 8 cases the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised	...	8,845
Decreed on confession	...	3,167
Decreed *ex parte*	...	6,988
Dismissed *ex parte*	...	8
Total	...	19,008

Of the 7,577 suits pending at the close of the year, 3,961 were over three months old, against 2,977 in 1918.

Execution of decrees.

163. Of 18,744 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with during the year, including 8,512 pending from the previous year, 10,991 were determined and 7,753 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter, 394 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of, 4,855 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 3,402 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 2,734 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realized was Rs. 15,86,205 as compared with Rs. 11,93,450 in the previous year.

In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 79 and sale of moveables in 340, cases. These figures exceed those of 1918 by 23 and 155, respectively.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

164. One hundred and nineteen appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 68 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 101 were decided and 86 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 23 more than in 1918. On the Appellate Side 202 such appeals were filed during the year, and 19 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 136 were decided and 85 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals from the subordinate Civil courts.

165. The statement in the margin shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam. The number of first and second appeals from decrees shows a decrease of 26 each and that from orders an increase of 17 and 37, respectively, compared with the figures of the preceding year.

	Pending at the end of 1918.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1919.
First Appeals.				
From decrees ...	687	316	427	576
„ orders ...	313	236	384	165
Second Appeals.				
From decrees ...	3,771	2,810	2,767	3,814
„ orders ...	5	143	44	104
Total ...	4,776	3,505	3,622	4,659

Appeals decided and pending.

166. The number of first appeals from decrees and orders disposed of shows an increase of 28 and 94, respectively, and that of second appeals a decrease of 638 and 96, respectively, compared with the figures of the previous year. At the close of the year 741 first appeals were pending, of which 576 were from decrees and 165 from orders; and 3,918 second appeals, of which 3,814 were from decrees. The total number pending at the close of the year was 4,659, against 4,776 at the close of the previous year.

Results of appeals.

167. Of the 427 appeals from original decrees decided, 74 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. The results of the appeals decided after contest were that the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 222, reversed in 59, and varied in 55 cases, while 17 cases were remanded. Of the 2,767 appeals from appellate decrees decided, 96 were uncontested and 902 were dealt with under order XLI, rule 11, of the Code of Civil Procedure. One thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine appeals were heard and determined, with the result that 1,278 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 220 reversed, and 42 varied, while 229 cases were remanded. Of the 428 appeals from orders decided, 44 were uncontested, 85 were dealt with under order XLI, rule 11, of the Code of Civil Procedure and 299 were decided after trial, with the result that 176 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 60 reversed and 19 varied, and 44 cases were remanded. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

		Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from	Original decrees	93	129	55	59
	Appellate decrees	620	658	136	126
Miscellaneous appeals ...		89	87	45	34

Appeals to the Privy Council.

168. Appeals to the Privy Council (including appeals from Bihar and Orissa, over which this Court continued to exercise jurisdiction in pursuance of the Letters Patent, dated the 9th February 1916).—At the opening of the year 130 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England and 94 were pending for orders. Sixty-six new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 27 were struck off or compromised, 48 were despatched to England and 221 appeals were pending at the close of the year, viz., 88 of 1914, 63 of 1917, 20 of 1918 and 40 of 1919. Of the pending appeals, 151, including 11 from Bihar and Orissa, were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

169. The results of twelve appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in nine instances and reversed in three.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

170. Twenty-two thousand nine hundred and forty-eight appeals were instituted in 1919, showing an increase of 2,231, as compared with the previous year. Of the appeals instituted, 13,881 were in rent suits, 6,878 in title suits, and 2,189 in suits for money or moveables. The numbers show an increase in appeals in rent suits but a decrease in appeals in title and money suits. The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,624 and 5,406, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 29,86,824, and was less than that of 1918 by Rs. 63,764. The number of cases in which

an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts, was 62,080, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 28·5 per cent. as against 25·7 in 1918. The percentage was highest in Noakhali (72·8), followed by Tippera (38·7), Burdwan (37·6) and Khulna (33·3) and it was the lowest in Dinajpur (14·4), followed by Birbhum (16) and Bankura (19·2). The number of appeals instituted was larger than in the previous year in 11, and smaller in 10 districts. The increase in institutions was most marked in Rajshahi (2,340), Noakhali (1,219), Faridpur (239), the 24-Parganas (237) and Tippera (110), and the decrease in Midnapore (970), Dinajpur (255), Murshidabad (230), Bakarganj (203), Pabna-Bogra (159) and Dacca (113). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

Appeals disposed of.

171. The number of appeals decided was 20,073 and shows an increase of 1,961 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and a decrease of 748 in the number decided by Subordinate Judges, as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (15,682) was 137 more than in 1918.

The increase in disposals was spread over seven districts and was the greatest in Noakhali (1,255), followed by Midnapore (1,077), Faridpur (883) and Dacca (577). The increase in Noakhali was due partly to the temporary appointment of an additional Judge in that district and partly to the disposal of a large number of appeals in batches. In Midnapore it was due to the disposal of a larger number of settlement appeals and also to the assistance of an additional District Judge for a longer period; while in Faridpur and Dacca it was mainly due to the temporary assistance given during the year. On the other hand, there was a noticeable decrease in Nadia (714), which is accounted for by the fact that a large number of analogous appeals was disposed of in groups in 1918 which swelled the number of appeals decided in the previous year.

Appeals pending.

172. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 23,751 and exceeded the number pending at the end of 1918 by 3,421. The number of over one year old appeals rose from 2,952 to 4,116, during the year. Midnapore was accountable for the largest number, viz., 2,386, which included settlement appeals pending before the District Judge.

Results of appeals.

173. The results on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows:—In 10,014 cases, or 49·9 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 2,747 cases, or 13·7 per cent., it was modified; and in 3,297 cases, or 16·4 per cent., it was reversed. One thousand four hundred and forty-three, or 7·2 per cent., were remanded, and 2,572, or 12·8 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are less favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous appeals.

174. Three thousand four hundred and eight-four miscellaneous appeals were instituted and 3,270 were disposed of, during the year, leaving 1,368 appeals pending at the close of the year. The number pending was 262 more than in the previous year.

General.

175. There was a large increase in the number of orignal suits instituted in the subordinate courts, and, although the disposals were greater than the institutions, there was a considerable increase in the pending file. There was also a large increase in the number of appeals instituted, but the outturn, though greater than in the previous year, failed to keep pace with the institutions, with the result that the pending file increased. There was also a further rise in the number of year-old suits and appeals pending. On the Appellate Side of the High Court the institutions increased slightly, and the disposals were in excess of the institutions. The result was a further appreciable reduction in the pending file.

Inspection.

176. The courts of 13 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 68 Munsifs were inspected by District and additional District Judges.

Receipts and charges of the Civil Courts.

177. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,66,84,507, showing an increase of Rs. 17,82,136, and the charges to Rs. 62,78,676, showing an increase of Rs. 3,25,181 on those of 1918. Including the amount realized on account of duty* on probates, etc., the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 1,04,05,831, and, excluding this item, it amounted to Rs. 88,53,732.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	12,74,826(a)
In other courts ...	2,77,273(a)
Total ...	15,52,099

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1919-20.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts.		Rs.	*Charges.*		Rs.
In stamps ...	Process fees ...	30,42,428	Salaries of judicial officers ...		24,19,755
	Other fees ...	1,27,89,520	Establishment	Process servers ...	7,26,958
In cash or special stamps.	Fines ...	5,658		Others ...	19,52,588
	Copying and comparing fees.	5,86,896	Copyists' fees		4,91,116
	Other receipts ...	2,60,005	Contingencies and refunds ...		6,88,259
	Total ...	1,66,84,507	Total ...		62,78,676

There was an increase in receipts under all heads except "other receipts credited to Government." Under the head "other fees" the increase amounted to more than Rs. 16,42,000. The increase in expenditure was under all heads except " salaries of judicial officers," and was most marked under the head " contingencies and refunds," which exceeded Rs. 1,37,000.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

178. The total number of suits instituted during 1919 in the civil courts in the Scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 337. Of these suits, 334 were for money or moveable property. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 375. Of these suits, 83 were contested and 110 were disposed of without trial. The number pending at the end of the year was 37. The number of miscellaneous cases was 1,651. Of these, 878 were decreed *ex parte* and 362 were pending at the close of the year. The total number of appeals from decrees was 44 and the number disposed of was 40. Thirty-seven miscellaneous appeals were preferred, and 4 remained pending at the end of the year. Nine hundred and thirty-one applications were made for execution of decrees, of which 147 were pending at the end of the year.

Registration.

[Triennial Report on the Administration of the Registration Department in Bengal for the three years ending 1919.]

Progress and statistics of 1919.

179. There were 408 registration offices working at the end of the year, as against 407 at the end of 1918. The total number of registrations in Books I, III and IV and the total income increased from 1,393,575 and Rs. 17,75,732, respectively, in 1918 to 1,855,834 and Rs. 23,90,939 in 1919. The total expenditure increased from Rs. 11,26,134 in 1918 to Rs. 12,65,933 in 1919.

Triennial Report, 1916-1919.

180. As the triennial report on the administration of the Registration Department was issued in 1920, it is desirable to compare the figures of the three years 1916—1919 with those of the preceding triennium. The ordinary work of the department showed neither an increase nor a decrease over the whole period; it fell slightly in 1917, very largely in 1918, but rose again considerably in 1919. The number of offices open at the end of the triennium under review was 408 against 403 at its commencement. The total number of

registrations under all heads was 4,913,594, showing the remarkably small difference of a decrease of only 216 on the number in the preceding triennium. The receipts of the department during the past three years amounted to nearly Rs. 62¼ lakhs and the expenditure to Rs. 33 lakhs, leaving a surplus of over Rs. 29 lakhs. As compared with the previous triennium, the receipts increased by 5·2 per cent., the expenditure by 4·5 per cent. and the surplus by 6·2 per cent. The marked increase in the year 1919, both in the number of, and receipts from, registrations over similar statistics for the year 1918 is attributed generally to high prices, and particularly to famine in Bankura, distress in Brahmanbaria, the cyclone in East Bengal, the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust and speculation in land in Calcutta and the 24-Parganas. On the other hand, the combined effect of these causes has been so far little more than to restore the normal conditions of the department. In 1918, which was an abnormal year, numbers and receipts fell to 13·9 and Rs. 17·8 lakhs from 16·6 and Rs. 20·6 lakhs, respectively, in 1917. It is remarkable that the decrease in 1918, as well as the increase in 1919, has been ascribed to adverse economic factors. This is illustrative of the fact that in the Registration Department the reasons for changes are often obscure. But it is, in the opinion of Government, more than probable that the decrease in 1918 was also largely due to the bountiful harvest, which improved the material condition of agriculturists during that year.

Reforms in organisation.

181. With effect from 1st May 1919, the system of departmental registrars, which is in force in the Madras Presidency, was introduced, as an experimental measure, in a few districts in Bengal. District officers in those districts have been relieved of all their legal and routine duties in connection with registration. The new district registrars are directly under the Inspector-General of Registration. They perform the ordinary duties which they have hitherto performed as district sub-registrars as well as those prescribed for the district registrars, and receive a duty allowance of Rs. 100 *per mensem* in addition to their pay as district sub-registrars. So far as it has gone, the experiment promises well. It is, however, too soon to make a definite pronouncement as to its success or failure; much depends upon the *personnel* of the department. The rules regarding the recruitment of sub-registrars have been modified so as to eliminate direct appointments by Government, except in special cases.

Improvement of pay.

182. An improvement of the pay of practically the whole staff of the department was effected either during, or at the end of, the period under review. A scheme for the revision of the pay and strength of the ministerial establishment of district headquarters and rural registration offices was partially introduced in 1919 by granting clerks and muharrirs an immediate increase of 20 per cent. on their pay. Full effect was given to the scheme from 1st March 1920. The 4th grade on Rs. 175 *per mensem* in the cadre of district sub-registrars has been eliminated, and the total number of appointments has been equally distributed among the remaining three grades on Rs. 200, Rs. 225 and Rs. 250 *per mensem*. A re-adjustment of the cadre of sub-registrars was sanctioned, with a view to secure an even flow of promotion throughout the four grades into which the sub-registrars are distributed at present. Sanction was also accorded to the raising of the pay of probationers from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 *per mensem*. The total annual additional cost of these improvements in the pay of the department is Rs. 2,12,773.

Working of the Marriage Act III of 1872.

183. Thirty-five marriages were registered during the calendar year 1919 under the Marriage Act III of 1872 against 43 in 1918. Out of these, 25 were registered in Calcutta, 2 each in Nadia, Mymensingh and Chittagong and 1 each in Howrah, Burdwan, Dacca and Tippera. Of the 47 Marriage Registrars under the Act, only 12 registered marriages during the year.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazis Act.

184. Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the Voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was in force in the whole of this Presidency. The number of offices at the end of the year 1919 was 301 against 286 at the end of 1918. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year was 72,111 against 57,762 in 1918, showing an increase of 24·8 per cent. The increase occurred mainly in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi

Divisions and appears to be due partly to the growing popularity of the Act and partly to the facilities for registration afforded by the increase in the number of offices. The total receipts of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 1,40,098-15-6 during the year 1919 against Rs. 1,13,619-10-6 in the previous year, showing an increase of 23·3 per cent. A special Inspector of Muhammadan Marriage Registration offices has been appointed from September 1919.

Working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, (VII of 1913.)

185. The number of companies limited by shares in operation in Bengal at the close of the year was 1,744 with a total nominal capital of Rs. 2,31,60,72,040 and a paid up capital of Rs. 53,77,82,688, as compared with 1,267 companies with Rs. 1,24,34,61,640 nominal and Rs. 45,63,65,797 paid up capital in the previous year. Five hundred and thirty-two companies were registered during the year or 328 in excess of the number, registered in 1918-19. This large increase, which is due partly to the repeal, with effect from the 24th September 1919, of the Indian Companies Registration Act, 1918 (XII of 1918), a purely war measure, discloses a state of unprecedented activity in the commercial life and enterprise of Bengal.

Of the new companies registered, 514 were limited by shares, 5 by guarantee and 13 were incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860). Exceptional prosperity in the jute and cotton trades caused the flotation of several new mills, notwithstanding the increase in price of land and cost of machinery and labour. Of the new companies registered during the year under review, so far as can be judged, 306 were under Indian management, as compared with 71 in the preceding year. Three hundred and forty-four companies increased, while 19 companies decreased their capital, against 278 and 15, respectively, in 1918-19.

Thirty-six companies ceased to work, went into liquidation and were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct compared with 83 in the previous year. The net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources during the year aggregated Rs. 2,27,867-4, against Rs. 64,398 in 1918-19. No new auditor's certificate was granted during the year under section 144 (*a*) of the Act, but certain alterations were made in the certificates of some of the auditors, a few of which required renewal. The register of auditors at the close of the year showed that 14 auditors certificated by this Government were entitled to audit companies' accounts throughout British India and that the scope of operation of 17 auditors was limited to this Presidency. Twenty-four prosecutions under the Act were instituted during the year and two were pending from the previous year. Of these, 22 ended in conviction, 3 were withdrawn and one remained pending at the close of the year.

Working of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912.)

186. Only two societies registered under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912, remained in existence, while no new society was registered under the provisions of this Act during the year.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India—Part VIII, Local Funds.]

Number of municipalities.

187. The number of municipalities remained the same, viz., 115. The name of the South Brarackpore municipality was changed to Khardah. The total number of ratepayers rose from 317,117 to 319,906 or 16·2 per cent. of the total population. There are large variations in the ratio, the maximum being 39·2 per cent. and the minimum 3·5 per cent.

Elections.

188. General elections were held in 16 municipalities and were contested in the majority of cases. There was no contest at Maniktala and there was also no poll in nine out of ten wards in Darjeeling. On the other hand, feeling ran so high in the small municipality of Jaynagar that the polling in one ward could not be finished in consequence of disturbances

caused by the candidates' partisans, and a fresh election was held on a subsequent date, when 98 per cent. of the voters attended. The system of secret balloting was adopted in Hooghly-Chinsura and proved successful. The elections at Dacca, Barisal and Tollygunj were followed by litigation, and so was the election of a chairman at Madaripur. A civil suit in connection with the general election held at Sirajganj in April 1918, which was pending before the High Court, was dismissed on compromise in February 1920, and a new Municipal Board has since been constituted. A decision was also given in a civil suit instituted by a ratepayer of Kotrung in connection with the general election held in 1918-19, and the Municipal Board was consequently constituted, but the Commissioners could not agree to the election of any of their number as chairman and asked Government to make an appointment.

Meetings.

189. On the average one out of every 20 meetings failed for want of a quorum. The failure was most marked at Jessore, where 7 out of 21 meetings proved abortive. The Commissioners failed to meet once a month in only four municipalities.

Assessment and taxation.

190. The average incidence of taxation rose from Rs. 2-9-1 to Rs. 2-14-5 per head of population. In this case also there are large variations, the incidence being above Rs. 5 in five municipalities, viz., Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Chittagong, Kurseong and Darjeeling, while it is as low as 6½ annas in Ramjibanpur, under 7 annas in Baduria and under 9 annas in Kishorganj.

Collections.

191. The collections increased by Rs. 2 lakhs, but the percentage on the current demand fell from 97·7 to 90·1, the lowest ratio (74·2) being returned by Satkhira. In the municipalities of the Dacca Division the fall was due largely to the distress caused by the cyclone of September 1919. The percentage of remissions on the current demand fell from 3·6 to 2·8. It was specially high in Bansberia (21·4), Debhatta, (16·9) and Narainganj (10·1) as a result of revision on appeals or laxity in collections. Too often there is a tendency to defer writing off demands which should be either collected or remitted earlier.

The total outstanding balances aggregated Rs. 6 lakhs or Rs. 55,000 in excess of the previous year; they were largest in Burdwan, Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Tollygunj, Dacca, Narayanganj, Mymensingh, Barisal and Rampur-Boalia. Nearly half the current demand in Satkhira was in arrear at the end of the year, and there were unsatisfactory results in the nunicipalities of Midnapore, which are described as follows by the Magistrate:—

"Midnapore ends the year with 13 per cent. of its annual and 42 per cent. of its arrear demands still uncollected. Ghatal was 9 per cent. behind in its annual collection and 10 per cent. in arrear collections. Chandrakona was unable to collect 50 per cent. of its arrears while its collection of current demand was 29 per cent. short. Khirpai starts with an arrear balance of more than 25 per cent. of its current demand, while Kharar is worst of all with an arrear demand of 50 per cent. of its current demand. The fact is that no serious efforts were made to collect the quarter's dues within the quarter. It is only at the end of the year, when returns have to be submitted with percentages of collections, that a scramble occurs to collect as much as possible. Under this system heavy arrears cannot but accrue."

Income and expenditure.

192. The total receipts, including opening balances, rose from Rs. 89,06,396 to Rs. 98,29,204, the income from rates and taxes showing an increase of over Rs. 2 lakhs and the receipts from grants and contributions of nearly Rs. 4¾ lakhs.

The total expenditure rose from Rs. 69,67,662 to Rs. 81,33,115. The increase under the head of "Public health and convenience" alone was about Rs. 9½ lakhs. The expenditure under "General administration and collection charges" rose by over Rs. ½ lakh, but represented only 6·6 per cent. of the total expenditure as against 8 per cent. in the previous year.

Closing balances.

193. The closing balances, which had risen from 17 lakhs to 19 lakhs in 1918-19, fell again to Rs. 17 lakhs; about one-third of the municipalities

closed the year with balances exceeding one-quarter of their total expenditure. A large proportion consists of funds accumulated for schemes of improvement such as water-supply and drainage. On the other hand, a number of municipalities failed to keep adequate working balances. In eight cases they were insufficient to meet outstanding liabilities, viz., Mymensingh, Muktagacha, Barisal Tollygunj, Baduria, Nabadwip, Murshidabad and Jessore.

Education.

194. The total amount spent on education, including the Government grant of Rs. 72,091, was Rs. 2,92,394 or 4·2 per cent. of the municipal income. The expenditure on primary education rose from Rs. 1,27,466 to Rs. 1,34,221, but altogether 22 municipalities, as against 24 in the previous year, failed to spend even 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income on this object. On the other hand, the percentage was over 5 per cent. in 43 municipalities and over 10 per cent. in eight.

Water-supply.

195. The Nator and Satkhira waterworks schemes were completed during the year and progress was made with those designed for Midnapore, Mymensingh and Dacca. A water-supply scheme for Noakhali was sanctioned and partly carried out with the help of a Government contribution. A grant of Rs. 1,25,000 was also made by Government towards the execution of the Krishnagar waterworks scheme. The Comilla water-supply scheme, towards the cost of which the Maharaja of Tripura has promised to contribute Rs. ½ lakh, received the approval of the Sanitary Board. An important appeal to the High Court regarding the legality of metering house-connections in Chittagong was decided in favour of the municipality, and meters have consequently been affixed.

Drainage.

196. A drainage scheme for the Budge-Budge municipality was sanctioned during the year, and administrative approval was given to projects designed for the drainage of Suri, Krishnagar and Basirhat. The Commissioners of Hooghly-Chinsura are considering a comprehensive scheme. which will be carried out in parts as funds become available. Minor works were carried out in Uttarpara, Chittagong, Comilla, Darjeeling, Kurseong and Rangpur.

Conservancy.

197. There was an increase of Rs. 2 lakhs in the expenditure under this head, which was mainly due to the grant of allowances to the staff and the increased price of materials. The conservancy charges were Rs. 5½ lakhs in excess of the receipts from latrine fees, which rose by only Rs. 44,000. There is often unwillingness to raise the rate of fees so as to make the latrine fund self-supporting and deficit balances are not uncommon.

The sewerage project for Kurseong was nearly completed, and progress was made with the important sewerage scheme at Dacca. Sewerage schemes for Bhatpara and Kamarhati, towards which the local mill companies subscribed liberally, were under preparation.

Public Health.

198. As in the previous year, many municipalities took steps to improve sanitation by filling up or clearing insanitary tanks, *dubas* and ditches and by removing jungle. A congested *bustee* was opened out at Faridpur to the great advantage of the locality, and in the Burdwan division it is reported that several municipalities have various projects of improvement in hand: generally however little was done in the way of town-planning and improvement. In many municipalities there is a regrettable reluctance to introduce the market section of the Municipal Act and to insist that the owners who make profits out of the markets shall keep them in a sanitary condition.

Free vaccination was introduced in Pirojpur and Patuakhali and in other towns additional vaccinators were appointed. Nator utilized the services of a midwife to vaccinate *pardanashin* ladies. Lantern lectures on hygiene were delivered by Sanitary Inspectors, and leaflets containing instructions about the precautionary measures to be taken against epidemic diseases were circulated. Special doctors were appointed in some localities; wells and tanks were also disinfected; quinine and other medicines were distributed free to school children and poor persons in several municipalities. Vigor-

ous action was taken by the Civil Surgeon to fight the influenza epidemic in Darjeeling. A special segregation hospital was established, temporary dispensaries were opened in different parts of the town, and Sub-Assistant Surgeons went about treating those who were unable to go to the different hospitals and dispensaries. Steps were taken by some municipalities to eradicate the water hyacinth: Bansberia, Bogra and Ghatal have framed by-laws on the subject.

Public Works.

199. The amount spent on public works (Rs. 10,40,835) showed a slight increase. The percentage of outlay on public works to the total expenditure ranged from 1·4 in Halisahar to 49;9 in Taki.

Loans.

200. Loans aggregating Rs. 1,32,000 were granted to Burdwan, Hooghly-Chinsura, Brahmanberia and Dinajpur. Altogether 41 municipalities were in debt to Government at the end of the year, their total liabilities amounting to nearly Rs. 40 lakhs. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 19,17,101), Darjeeling (Rs. 5,72,438), Dacca (Rs. 3,98,511), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,62,688) and Chittagong (Rs. 1,31,539).

Audits and embezzlements.

201. The accounts of almost all the municipalities were audited during the year. Embezzlements occurred in Burdwan, Bhadreswar, Tollygunj, Baruipur, Netrakona and Ramjibanpur. In some cases the money misappropriated was recovered and the offenders were either dismissed or prosecuted.

Howrah.

202. The record of the year's administration in Howrah, the most important municipality outside Calcutta, is disappointing. As in previous years, a number of necessary improvements could not be taken up for want of funds. The capital outlay on water-supply amounted to only Rs. 7,852 and the insufficiency of the supply continued to cause serious inconvenience. An attempt was made to check waste by the appointment of a superintendent of mains and by metering private connections. No new drainage project could be undertaken, but subsidiary drains and culverts were constructed in different parts of the town. The question of introducing dumping septic tanks in place of the present unsatisfactory trenching grounds was considered but the municipality is not in a position to finance the scheme, which would cost Rs. 7 lakhs, and it appears that the introduction of a modern sewerage scheme must await the extension to Howrah of the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The ten ward committees which were formed experimentally for one year from September 1918 for the supervision of conservancy were made permanent. The Commissioner of the Division complains of their inadequate supervision and of want of co-ordination with the central municipal office. The expenditure on the maintenance of roads remained practically stationary. With an increasing volume of traffic the condition of many roads is going from bad to worse, but the Municipal Commissioners have decided to cut down their programme of road repairs for some years owing to insufficiency of funds. The general health of the town was unsatisfactory. The fact that the death-rate was 68 per mille in 1918 and 58 per mille in 1919, when it was the highest recorded in any town or district of Bengal, points to the imperative need for improving the sanitation of the town.

It should be added that the Municipal Commissioners have realized the necessity for enlarging their resources and making retrenchments where possible. They accordingly resolved during the year under review to raise the rate from 7½ to 8½ per cent., which will bring in an additional income of Rs. 50,000, and also to make readjustments which will effect a saving of about Rs. 10,000 a year.

Administration.

203. The period of its supersession having expired the administration of the Burdwan municipality was entrusted to a board of nominated Commissioners in October 1919 and a promising start was made. The question of introducing the elective system in Asansol is under consideration. Suri suffered from an indifferent-water supply and a heavy death-rate caused by epidemics. In Bankura a large percentage of the current demand remained

unrealized at the end of the year, while the administration of the municipalities in the district of Midnapore was also marked by a general laxity in collections, except in Tamluk, which is reported to have given evidence of vigorous management. The municipalities in the district of Hooghly showed marked progress during the year. The income from municipal rates and taxes increased by 9 per cent. and outstanding balances fell by 15 per cent. There is an increasing tendency to recognize the necessity for schemes of improvement, and in view of this spirit it is regrettable to notice the refusal of the two chief towns (Hooghly-Chinsura and Serampore) to adopt building regulations. In October 1919 on the expiry of the period of supersession Hooghly-Chinsura was removed from official tutelage, and it rests with the new board of Municipal Commissioners to maintain the improvement in its finances which was effected during the term of official administration.

The following extracts from the report of the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas furnish a review of municipal administration in that district, which, contains one-fourth of the total number of municipalities in the Presidency:—

"There were no marked signs of progress in the municipalities of this district considered as a whole. The bad municipalities, such as Barasat, Baduria, Halisahar, Tollygunj and Basirhat continued to be bad, and the better municipalities, such as Bhatpara, Titagarh, Naihati and Baranagar, generally continued satisfactorily with the exception of Cossipore-Chitpur, which had got its finances into such a state that the utmost economy will be required during 1920-21 before the general fund can again be solvent. Generally the municipal administration was carried on without much friction, and it is pleasant to be able to note that party feeling was not so bitter as it sometimes had been in the past. There are several Ratepayers' Associations in the district, but the effect they have on the administration at present is not great, as too often they are suspected of being the creation of a defeated minority and not the spontaneous expression of a widespread interest in municipal affairs. The average ratepayer still prefers low rates and a correspondingly low standard of administration to enhanced taxation and improved modern methods. But in view of the great rise in the cost of living this is not to be wondered at. In far too many cases the administration of the municipalities is left to the poorly paid office and outdoor staff, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman contenting themselves with attending meetings and signing such papers and registers as the office puts up to them. There are, of course, noteworthy exceptions, but only too often is it the case that the efficiency of the municipality depends almost entirely on the efficiency of the subordinate staff, which is usually badly paid and often not very well qualified."

In the districts of Murshidabad and Khulna the Commissioners notices a considerable amount of dissatisfaction both as regards the amount of taxation imposed and the inadequacy of the benefits received, and he is impressed with the insufficiency of the municipal resources for dealing with the many problems which are pressing for solution. The Magistrate of Murshidabad reports, that on the whole administration showed steady progress as far as funds permitted.

The Commissioner of the Dacca Division observes that on the whole the result of the working of the municipalities in the division was satisfactory. There was an advance in public health administration, but so far as collections form a criterion of the quality of administration many municipalities failed to reach a good standard. In Dacca the proportion of collections to the current demand was as low as 83 per cent., and it has recently been necessary for Government to invite the attention of the Municipal Commissioners to the fact that their financial position is deteriorating while their liabilities on account of schemes of improvement are about to be increased. Arrears of taxes have been increasing every year for some time past; the revenue shows no signs of growth, and Government have impressed on the Commissioners the grave concern with which the state of their finances is viewed. Good work was done by the Chairman of the Narayanganj municipality in carrying the reassessment through to a successful conclusion and

starting the preparation of schemes of drainage and electric lighting. It is reported that the administration of Barisal causes general dissatisfaction, but that public opinion is too apathetic to enforce a remedy. Elsewhere in the Bakarganj district municipal affairs were managed with efficiency within the limits of small incomes, and the same account is given of the working of the municipalities in Faridpur, where also the people are adverse to the self-taxation necessary to improve civic amenities.

Comilla and Cox's Bazar were efficiently administered, but a certain lack of vigour was noticeable in Noakhali and Chittagong. Noakhali suffered from erosion by the river, which curtailed its income and deprived it of the principal sources of water-supply. The municipal limits have since been extended to the north, and a waterworks scheme has been sanctioned. Difficulty was caused in Chittagong by a diminished water-supply, to deal with which a scheme has been prepared by the Sanitary Engineer. An interesting development in this town is the establishment of a co-operative society among the municipal sweepers, which has rescued them from the money-lender's grip. There was an embittered agitation in Chandpur regarding the representation of the north and south of the town on the Municipal Board, as a result of which the educated section on the north side refused to participate in the general election.

The following extract is taken from the report of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division:—

"Among the municipalities of this division Darjeeling stands by itself as the only municipality which maintains a modern standard of administration. Kurseong is a progressive municipality, which has carried out improvements as far as its income permits, and wishes to undertake a comprehensive scheme for the development of the town if funds can be obtained. The most noticeable defect in the administration of other municipalities is the small expenditure on original works. Few important works of improvement have been carried out, and in this respect the principal municipalities in the plains portions of the division compare unfavourably with municipalities in other parts of Bengal. Nator is the only municipality in the plains which has a piped water-supply. In many municipalities the income could be increased by more careful assessment of taxes."

The administration of the Rampur-Boalia municipality showed no improvement, and was characterized by lack of interest and of a due sense of responsibility on the part of the Commissioners. Nator, Rangpur, Bogra and Dinajpur were managed satisfactorily. The incidence of taxation is abnormally low in the municipalities in the districts of Pabna and Malda. In the important trade centre of Sirajganj with many wealthy merchants the main bazar roads are still unmetalled, while Old Malda has so far failed to assess the merchant class adequately. In English Bazar there was a severe outbreak of small-pox, and it was only at the insistent request of the Civil Surgeon that the vaccination staff was strengthened by the appointment of one extra vaccinator.

Calcutta Corporation.

[Report on the administration of the Calcutta Corporation for the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part III—Local Funds.]

204. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 63,39,554 in the revenue funds. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1,40,13,266 and the payments to Rs. 1,50,26,172. The closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 53,26,648. On the basis of assets and liabilities the income amounted to Rs. 1,40,90,959 and expenditure to Rs. 1,51,62,542. Revenue funds.

205. Two 5 per cent. debenture loans of 1889-90, aggregating Rs. 19 lakhs, were repaid during the year, and a new loan of the face value of Rs. 10,54,000 was raised for repayment of these loans. The sanction of Government was also obtained to the raising of a loan of Rs. 24,92,500 at 5½ per cent. for capital works, of which a sum of Rs. 16,12,700 was raised up to the 31st March, by the issue of debentures to the public at 94 per cent. Loans.

The outstanding liability of the Corporation on account of loans at the end of the year was Rs. 4,78,33,500 and the loan charges on outstanding loans amounted to Rs. 31,63,462. The sinking funds had a balance of Rs. 35,57,983 after writing the securities down to market value.

Assessment Department.

206. The assessed annual valuation of the city stood at Rs. 529 lakhs on the 31st March 1920, there being an increase of Rs. 24,61,800 due to general revision and to intermediate valuation.

Surveyor's Department.

207. Plans and estimates, amounting to Rs. 486 lakhs, were prepared in connection with 156 projects covering an area of 2,332 bighas, and 40 projects estimated to cost Rs. 17¼ lakhs were approved and submitted to Government for sanction to the acquisition of land. Altogether 50½ bighas of land were acquired during the year at a cost of Rs. 17,53,731.

Collection Department.

208. The high standard of collection was maintained. The total demand was Rs. 97,39,260, of which Rs. 94,43,827 were collected; Rs. 2,20,828 were remitted or cancelled as irrecoverable. The percentage of collection on the gross current demand less the amount pending with the Assessor was 98·08 and that on the net demand 99·88.

License Department.

209. The total collections of the License Department, exclusive of the Lincensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade tax, amounted to Rs. 13,45,807.

Bustee Department.

210. The Corporation continued to take vigorous action for the improvements of *bustees;* 19 bighas of *bustee* land were cleared and about 2 miles of roads were constructed. In 27 *bustee* holdings the required improvements were completed during the year and 32 *bustees* were surveyed with a view to being taken up for improvement. Forty-three private streets were constructed during the year.

Water-supply.

211. The total quantity of water supplied to the city during the year averaged 66½ (37 filtered and 29½ unfiltered) million gallons per day. The daily average consumption per head amounted to 40·1 gallons of filtered and 33·1 gallons of unfiltered water.

Drainage.

212. The silting of the Bidyadhari river continues in the lower reaches, where the average bed levels at the end of the year were higher than at any time previously. The condition of the river is being carefully watched by an expert Committee appointed by Government.

Roads.

213. One of the outstanding features of the record of municipal progress is the admitted improvement in the condition of road surfaces during the last few years. These improvements are being gradually extended, and a sum of nearly Rs. 6,00,000 was spent during the year for the paving of roads with asphaltum. The total expenditure on the maintenance of roads and footpaths amounted to Rs. 9,53,000, as against Rs. 7,47,000 in 1918-19.

Conservancy.

214. The total expenditure on street cleansing, the incinerator, and the municipal railway amounted to Rs. 15,54,000. Further progress has been made in connection with the scheme for the introduction of motor traction for the removal of refuse. An order has been placed for 10 lorries and 4 trailers, and a detailed scheme for the working of the motor lorry service in portions of the city has been approved. The total quantity of refuse dealt with in the year was 482,895 tons.

Food Inspection.

215. There were 113 prosecutions for adulteration of *ghee*, of which 59 were disposed of within the year and 57 ended in conviction. The fines imposed in these cases amounted to Rs. 12,600. Altogether 1,401 samples of *ghee* were analysed and about 9·2 per cent. of the samples were found adulterated as against 15 per cent. in the previous year. There has been an improvement in the quality of *ghee* sold, but the *ghee* used in the preparation of sweetmeats continues to be of an inferior quality.

Three thousand five hundred and fifty-one samples of foodstuffs of all kinds were analysed during the year, and it is satisfactory to find that there was a much lower percentage of adulteration than in the previous year.

The milk-supply is still very unsatisfactory, more than one-third of the samples examined being adulterated. Out of 454 samples of mustard oil, 106 were found adulterated, and a new and dangerous form of adulteration

was found to be prevalent. Investigation into the cause of some cases of sickness resembling hydrocyanic acid poisoning disclosed the fact that *pakra* seed was being used as an adulterant of mustard oil. The public were warned by notices and advertisements against the use of adulterated oil and arrangements were made for the sale of pure mustard oil. It may be added that 1,892 maunds of foodstuffs, 1,365 bottles of ærated water, 5,251 eggs, 40,640 tins of tinned provisions and 100 cases of tea were destroyed during the year in the interests of the public health.

Milk supply.

216. The scheme for a dairy farm with a city dairy had to be kept in abeyance pending an amendment of the existing law to give the Corporation powers to carry out the scheme. The proposal to establish a municipal milk market, which has been under consideration for some time past, has materialized, and steps are being taken to acquire the necessary land.

Markets.

217. All the four municipal markets had record receipts and proved of great use in connection with the regulation of prices and the provision of wholesome foodstuffs for the public. A strict watch was kept over the prices of foodstuffs and the necessaries of life, and effective measures were taken to keep prices at a reasonable figure. Depôts were opened for the sale of coal and Burma rice, in order to ensure supplies at cheap rates, and facilities were given for the sale of pure mustard oil.

Municipal Magistrates' Courts.

218. Including cases pending from the previous year, there were altogether 25,943 prosecutions and 21,268 cases were disposed of within the year, the total amount of fines imposed being Rs. 1,24,077.

Education.

219. The aggregate value of the aid given by the Corporation to educational institutions of all kinds in Calcutta during the year amounted to Rs. 1,20,720. The capitation grant was increased from Re. 1 and Re. 1-8 to Re. 1-8 and Rs. 2 per boy and girl, respectively.

The question of the improvement of primary education in Calcutta has at last taken definite shape and the Corporation have agreed to a scheme prepared for this purpose. The scheme provides for 15 model schools and a training college for teachers, and for the improvement of such of the existing schools as are capable of improvement, 10 per cent. of them being taken up every year until about 40 per cent. are dealt with, while new schools will be taken over as they spring up and provided with a trained staff and proper equipment. The scheme will involve a capital expenditure of about Rs. 21¾ lakhs and a recurring expenditure of approximately Rs. 4¾ lakhs when it is in full operation. Government have agreed to contribute the entire capital cost of the training college and Rs. 10,000 a year for three years towards its maintenance and three-fourths of the capital cost of the rest of the scheme.

Public Health.

220. The year was, from the point of view of public health, one of the worst on record, and the death-rate recorded was as high as 42·2 per mille as 35 in the previous year and a quinquennial average of 28 per mille. The epidemic of influenza in the previous year had lowered the vitality of the people and impaired their powers of resistance, while the city suffered from several epidemics. Two severe outbreaks of influenza occurred during the year, while the usual quinquennial epidemic of small-pox appeared with marked severity towards its close. Cholera also prevailed in epidemic form and the spread of infection by pilgrims returning from the Ganga Saugar Mêla intensified the annual recrudescence. To cope with the outbreak of influenza the special staff entertained by the Corporation during the previous year was continued, while, in anticipation of the expected severe epidemic of small-pox, a vigorous vaccination campaign was undertaken, in which valuable assistance was rendered by the members of the medical profession in the city. Infantile death-rate showed a marked increase and rose from 280 to 357·8 per 1,000 registered births.

Maternity and Baby Welfare Work.

221. The Corporation midwives delivered 2,177 women and removed 103 complicated cases to hospitals. There were 11 maternal deaths among the women delivered by the midwives and, excluding 91 still-births, only 69 infants died during the first 10 days. This gives a mortality rate of 33 per thousand births, which compares very favourably with the general infantile mortality rate for the city of 111 per mille during the first week of life.

A large proportion of the infantile deaths within 10 days occurred among prematurely born babies. Among the 2,017 infants kept under observation by the Lady Health Visitors from after the puerperal period of 10 days, until they were three months old, there were only 44 deaths. This is equivalent to a death-rate of 21·8 per mille, which is a remarkable figure, considering that the general infantile mortality rate between 7 days and three months old is 287·9 per mille. It has been decided to establish a maternity home in the northern part of the city, with a contribution of Rs. 20,000, which has been sanctioned by the Corporation, and a donation of Rs. 50,000, which has been received for the purpose.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust for 1919-20.]

General.

222. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining materials not only of foreign but also of Indian manufacture the engineering work of the Trust were hampered to an extraordinary extent, more than one-third of the budget allotment under this head having lapsed in consequence. For the same reason building and rebuilding operations on land sold or not acquired by the Trust were postponed in very many cases. The land boom continued to develop and reached its climax last winter, but the passing of the Calcutta Rent Act at the close of the year indirectly served as a check on land speculation.

Improvement schemes.

223. The scheme providing for the construction of the section of the Central Avenue from Bow Bazar Street to Prinsep Street was sanctioned.

Two important street schemes in the southern suburb of Calcutta were nearly completed and a third was in progress. Another big scheme for the construction of the new main sewer road from Chetla to Ballygunge railway station, which is designed to improve the general drainage of an unhealthy area, which is at present sparsely populated, was approved by the Trust during the year. The first section of the scheme for the improvement of Burra Bazar was published for criticism. Much of the improvement of this area hinges upon the removal of the mint from its present site; and towards the end of the year a committee was appointed by the Government of India to consider this question.

Squares and parks.

224. In pursuance of the policy of providing open spaces in the north of the town and in the suburbs, the Trust embarked on the selection of sites for parks and squares in Maniktala, Cossipore-Chitpur, Ratan Sarkar Garden Street and Amherst Street.

Extension of the Trust's operations to suburban municipalities.

225. The question of extending the operations of the Trust to Howrah, which is in urgent need of improvement, took a definite shape during the year; the Trustees declared themselves willing to undertake the improvement on suitable financial conditions. As this could not be given effect to without amending the Act, it was decided that a Bill should be prepared after the constitution of the new Legislative Council. The improvement of Maniktala remained in abeyance pending the final alignment of the Grand Trunk Canal.

Rehousing schemes.

226. For the accommodation of persons displaced by the execution of their schemes the Trust embarked on the preparation of rehousing schemes and, following the natural tendency of the people of the working class who prefer to live in the sort of hut to which they are accustomed, selected sites in Beckbagan and Maniktala for the erection of sanitary huts on well-raised plinths were acquired. Another site was acquired in Karbala Tank Lane in order to build houses to be let temporarily to persons displaced by improvement schemes. Sanction was also accorded to a scheme for the erection of tenement dwellings and the creation of an open space for the Anglo-Indian population rendered homeless by the section of the Central Avenue to the south of Bow Bazar Street. Land is being acquired in Cossipore-Chitpur for the purpose of providing suitable building sites on which persons of the poorer classes, whose houses have been acquired by the Trust and whose slender means prevent them from purchasing sites in Calcutta, may build

new houses under the control of the Trust. But neither these operations nor the restriction of house rents imposed by the Calcutta Rent Act are sufficient to solve the housing problem in Calcutta, and the adoption of further measures towards this end are under the consideration of Government. At present, one of the chief obstacles to the expansion and development of Calcutta is the difficulty which building societies and companies experience in obtaining land and securing a firm title. It was on this account that the Calcutta Rents Committee appointed in September 1919 recommended that Government should utilise the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act to acquire land for bodies which had been formed definitely for the provision of housing accommodation. In pursuance of this recommendation a notification was issued by Government after the close of the year announcing that they would acquire land under the Land Acquisition Act for approved schemes on behalf and at the cost of registered companies for housing purposes so long as emergent measures are necessary for the development of Calcutta. The question of amending the Calcutta Improvement Act so as to give the Trust larger powers in the matter of rehousing is also under the consideration of Government.

Proposed Public streets.

227. In order to remove the uncertainty caused to intending builders by the operations of the Trust, four new proposed public street schemes were published by the Trust. Besides these, six such schemes, were sanctioned by Government and three were under consideration at the end of the year.

Finance.

228. The income and expenditure under the Capital Account were, respectively, Rs. 56,04,000 and Rs. 89,44,000, and those under the Revenue Account Rs. 39,95,000 and Rs. 9,83,000. The deficit in the Capital Account was met from the Revenue Account, which closed with a net balance of Rs. 78,27,000 against Rs. 81,55,000 in the preceding year.

District Boards.

[The Reports of Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

District Boards.

229. It is recognized that, in the present stage of local self-government in Bengal, political education is a paramount consideration to which administrative efficiency must give place. In pursuance of this policy steps have been taken to remove the District Boards from official tutelage. Orders were issued during the year under review extending to 15 more districts the system under which the chairmanship of the District Board is held by a non-official elected member. It has subsequently been decided that the same system shall be followed in the remaining districts of the Presidency, so that in future a non-official executive will be responsible for the administration of the Local Self-Government Act under a responsible Minister.

Local Boards.

230. There is little of interest to record in the work of Local Boards, which in most cases have limited funds placed at their disposal by the District Boards and discharge routine duties. It is expected however that their sphere of usefulness will expand with the creation of Union Boards under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, for the supervision of which they are responsible.

The amendment of the election rules so as to enable more polling stations to be established appears to have had satisfactory results. It has helped to secure a much larger poll and has neutralized the advantage hitherto enjoyed by voters living close to the thana headquarters, which used generally to be the only polling station.

Village Self-Government.

231. During the year under review there were 383 Union Committees at work administering, for a population of about 4 millions, the limited functions admissible under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act. These bodies have mostly been replaced by Union Boards constituted under the Village Self-Government Act. That Act came into force on 28th May 1919, and before the end of the year sanction had been given to the establishment of

502 Union Boards: the number has now been more than trebled, being over 1,700. Full acknowledgment should be made of the work done by the former Union Committees, which paved the way for the fuller measure of village self-government now in force. The field of activity open to Union Boards is much wider. To them is entrusted the conduct of communal affairs in the villages from which the public life of the country starts. It is on the foundation of their organization, their successful work and their realization of the fact that they themselves are responsible to their fellow villagers that the imposing structure of responsible self-government in Bengal must rest.

Financial results.

232. The recipts from all sources rose to Rs. 129 lakhs, or Rs. 12½ lakhs more than in the preceding year: the increase was mainly due to larger receipts from advances and deposits. The disbursements aggregated Rs. 130·7 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 19 lakhs. The excess of current income over current expenditure, amounting in the previous year to 4½ lakhs, was reduced to Rs. 38,000. The closing balances at the end of the year amounted to 34·9 lakhs.

Taxation.

233. The incidence of taxation average 2 annas 10 pies a head for the whole Presidency and varied in different districts from one anna 8 pies to 6 annas 8 pies.

Education.

234. The greater portion of the expenditure on education was, as usual, met by Government grants. The District Boards spent Rs. 26¾ lakhs, of which Rs. 16,20,000 was given by Government; fees and miscellaneous receipts brought in Rs. 72,000 and contributions from other sources amounted to the small sum of Rs. 9,000. The sum contributed by the District Boards for the elementary education of the rural population aggregated Rs. 9¾ lakhs; but this represented 9 per cent. of their income. The Minister for Local Self-Government doubts whether some of the District Boards have sufficiently realised their responsibility for the dissemination of primary education in rural areas. The District Boards have been reminded that the expansion of primary education is necessary for the intellectual uplift, the economic progress and the political advancement of the people of Bengal; and that it rests with them to facilitate expansion by whole-hearted co-operation with Government.

Medical relief and public health.

235. The District Boards established 19 new dispensaries, and maintained altogether 282 dispensaries at a cost of Rs. 4¾ lakhs; there were also 221 in receipt of grants-in-aid aggregating 2½ lakhs. No dispensaries were maintained by any of the District Boards of the Chittagong Division, which moreover failed to formulate programmes for the extension of medical relief in rural areas. The Burdwan District Board maintained 12 temporary dispensaries for the treatment of malarial fever, in addition to 17 permanent dispensaries. A floating dispensary of the Bakarganj District Board, and five *hât* dispensaries of the Mymensingh District Board, which proved unsuccessful, were abolished. A novel experiment was the establishment of an Ayurvedic dispensary by the Jessore District Board.

The District Boards of Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Nadia and Pabna adopted a scheme for subsidizing medical practitioners in rural areas which had been initiated by the Jessore District Board. In the district last named there are subsidized doctors in 10 centres and the scheme is said to have worked satisfactorily. The services of some of the subsidized doctors were utilized for attending outbreaks of disease in the neighbouring villages, and the work done by them is said to have been much better than that of the ordinary epidemic doctors employed by the Board. Elsewhere itinerant doctors were generally employed to give medical relief during outbreaks of epidemic disease. In Mymensingh the Board had 39 doctors at work during the year.

The usual petty sanitary works, such as removing jungle, clearing roadside and village drains, filling up insanitary ditches, etc., were carried on through the agency of Local Boards and Union Committees. Village sanitation committees have been formed in several places in the Nadia district for clearing jungle and bringing land under cultivation in order to prevent their relapsing into jungle: some unfortunately failed to do any useful work

owing to the apathy of the zamnidars. Propoganda work, such as lectures, magic lantern demonstrations, and the distribution of pamphlets on preventible diseases and the means of prevention, was carried on by Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors, and also in Jessore by the Chairman of the District Board.

Free vaccination was introduced in the districts of the Rajshahi Division, in Burdwan, Howrah and Tippera, in the Madaripur and Goalundo subdivisions of Faridpur, in the Patuakhali subdivision of the Bakarganj district (where 18 per cent. of the population are said to be have been vaccinated) and in some parts of the Kishorganj subdivision of Mymensingh.

Veterinary.

236. The expenditure of the District Boards on veterinary relief amounted to Rs. 1,12,000; and it may be mentioned as an instance of the organization in some districts that the Rangpur Board maintained 4 veterinary dispensaries and employed 6 veterinary assistants, who visited 794 villages, treated 5,529 cases and inoculated 9,538 animals, while the Pabna Board employed 3 assistants, who visited 632 villages, treated 1,716 cases (besides 1,787 at headquarters) and inoculated 3,300 animals. In Nadia some committees were formed by the people themselves to co-operate with and give help to the veterinary assistants. In Tippera a gang of systematic cattle poisoners was detected by a veterinary assistant, and five of them were convicted.

A novel experiment was the issue of a monthly magazine called *Krishi Katha* under the auspices of the Faridpur District Board. It is reported that the magazine contains interesting and instructive articles in popular language on agriculture, veterinary matters, etc., and is highly appreciated by the public.

Civil Works General.

237. The returns show an increased expenditure of about Rs. 3½ lakhs, which is mainly due to the fact that in some districts the outlay on educational and medical buildings, which in some districts was previously shown under the heads "Education" and "Medical" has been included under "Civil Works." Work was generally impeded by the difficulty of obtaining road metal and coal for brick burning, which was consequent on the shortage of railway wagons. In spite of this the percentage of lapses to total allotments in the Presidency as a whole fell from 12½ to 11 per cent.

Communications.

238. In the dry districts work on roads suffered from the difficulty of obtaining materials as well as from the shortage and high price of labour. In the wet districts, where transport is by water, *e.g.*, by rivers, streams, the channels known as *khals* and the lagoons called *bils*, complaints are common and vigorous about the obstruction caused by the water-hyacinth and the difficulty of clearing it from the waterways. In Mymensingh it was estimated that the cost of clearing the *khals* and *bils* would amount to Re. 1 lakh—a sum beyond the Board's financial capacity. A scheme of eradication without adequate legal powers and without the co-operation of the zamindars and tenants was felt to be impracticable. Partial eradication of the weed was realized to be futile. In Bakarganj the conclusion was that piece-meal work is useless, for, as soon as one waterway is cleared, the weed drifts in from another, and that, unless the adjoining districts, from which the weed is spreading, work jointly on a concerted and systematic plan, it is impossible to effect any real or lasting improvement. The question has been taken up by Government in the Ministry for Agriculture and Industries and a representative committee has been appointed to devise preventive measures.

Water-supply.

239. The total expenditure on the improvement of the sources of water-supply in rural areas amounted to about 7 lakhs, of which 6¼ lakhs were spent on original works. The percentage of the Public Works cess receipts spent averaged 20 per cent. for the Presidency as a whole and rose as high as 61 per cent. in Nadia. There was a marked improvement in the Burdwan district, where the outlay was more than doubled. In Rangpur and Chittagong, on the other hand, only 6 per cent. of the receipts from the cess was spent on water-supply, and there were noticeable decreases in Midnapore, Dinajpur and the 24-Parganas. No explanation has been given of the

reduced expenditure in the last two districts. In Midnapore the local officers point out that the decrease is due to a number of impracticable schemes being included in the programme, and they rightly suggest the need of carefully revising the programme, as well as of more method and foresight in executing it.

The whole of the Rs. 7 lakhs spent on water-supply was met from current revenue; and District Boards have again been asked to consider the expediency of financing works of this kind from loans.

There appears to be a conviction growing in force that owing to limitations of finance the Boards cannot increase their expenditure on water-supply to any great extent, and that an appreciable improvement can only be effected by Union Boards; and it is pointed out that the villagers, who will directly benefit, will be able to get the work done cheaply under their own eyes.

Drainage.

240. The expenditure on drainage rose from Rs. 77,000 to Rs. 1,21,000, of which Rs. 53,000 was on account of the Arool Bil drainage project in the Jessore district. Progress was also made with the Nawi Sunthi drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district. The Dinajpur District Board took up the construction of new culverts and extension of bridges so as to allow of more efficient drainage and prevent damage by flood, while in Bakarganj the excavation and re-excavation of *khals* are said to have improved the drainage of the district.

Relief Works.

241. In Bankura famine conditions prevailed during the first half of the year, but relief measures were closed early in October when a bumper crop of paddy brought in plenty to the district. A number of irrigation *bandhs* (reservoirs) and tanks were excavated and improved out of the grants received from Government. They relieved distress among the labouring classes and are expected to be a safeguard against future failure of crops by providing sources of irrigation in seasons of drought. Irrigation societies on co-operative lines have also been formed for the furtherance of this object. In Bogra the District Board spent Rs. 21,000 on the relief of distress in areas affected by floods.

In the 24-Parganas the District Board arranged, in collaboration with the Sadar Subdivisional Officer, for the supply of Burma rice in rural areas. Rice to the value of Rs. 1,50,000 was purchased and sold at a net profit of nearly Rs. 5,000. In Bakarganj the District Board, in order to mitigate the distress caused by the high price and scarcity of local rice, undertook the sale of Burma rice at cost price with money advanced from the District Fund. Altogether 75,000 maunds of rice were imported at a cost of about 4½ lakhs and sold to the public. The scheme is described as having been of the greatest possible value, while it paid for itself, the account closing with a surplus of Rs. 12,519. The example of Bakarganj in this respect might be followed by other District Boards where the local conditions favour the trial of such an experiment.

Closing Balances.

242. The total of the actual balances remained practically the same as in the previous year. They are still large in some districts, notably Burdwan whose balance was reduced by Rs. 69,000, but still amounted to Rs. 4,38,000, of which the Asansol Local Board was responsible for nearly 2 lakhs. This result is attributed to the failure to complete works owing to shortage of materials and difficulties of labour, and also to delay over a supplementary budget of the Local Board. In spite of this, the expenditure on civil works in this district aggregated 6⅓ lakhs or 1½ lakhs more than in any other district in Bengal. The large balance of Rs. 3,62,000 at the credit of the 24-Parganas District Board is accounted for by the accumulation of Government grants for anti-malarial schemes of drainage. An increase of Rs. 78,000 in the balance retained by the Howrah District Board has not been explained. The Bakarganj District Board cleared off the accumulation of the previous year, retaining only an actual balance of Rs. 30,000 against a current expenditure of over 7 lakhs.

General remarks.

243. The main problem of the District Boards is one of finance. They are faced with constantly increasing demands for a standard of administration based on modern ideas. To mention a few instances, the reforms urged

upon them include the expansion of primary education, the adoption of a comprehensive public health policy for the prevention of disease, the creation of a network of charitable dispensaries, more and better roads to enable the villagers to bring their goods to local markets or to the railways, the improvement of the water-supply, etc. The existing revenues of the Boards are not sufficient to supply the needs of the districts in spite of the fact that their income has been nearly doubled by Government giving them the receipts from the public works cess. Their position has become one of increasing difficulty, and there is a general complaint about the inequality between revenues and requirements.

The necessity for increasing the income of the District Boards in order to cope with expanding demands made upon them is apparent; and the question of devising means to augment their resources is being considered in connection with the amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act.

Marine Department.

(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, 1919-20.
(2) Ditto ditto, Chittagong, 1919-20.
(3) Annual Report of the Shipping Offices in Bengal, 1919-20.
(4) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments, 19 20.
(5) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission, 1919-20.
(6) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, 1919-20.
(7) Ditto ditto ditto, Chittagong, 1919-20.
(8) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-Boiler Commission, 1919-20.
(9) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge, 1919-20.

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Bengal Pilot Service.

244. The number of Pilots, including Leadsmen Apprentices, in the Bengal Pilot Service at the end of the year was 63 against the sanctioned number of 74, of these 14 were on long leave or on deputation to military duty. Nine Leadsmen Apprentices were appointed during the year. There were four casualties in the service. As in the previous year the system of guaranteed minimum remuneration was continued with a view to compensate Pilots for the decrease in the normal earnings.

Vessels piloted.

245. The number of vessels piloted inwards was 1,124 with a gross tonnage of 4,788,616, and outwards 1,102 with a gross tonnage of 4,687,463. Vessels drawing over 21 feet piloted inwards and outwards were 355 and 720, respectively.

No vessel was neaped inwards or outwards during the year for want of sufficient depth of water over the bars. No vessel was detained at the Sand-heads for want of pilots.

Pilotage receipts.

246. The receipts from pilotage fees were Rs. 10,80,472 against Rs. 10,42,874 and Rs. 8,63,709 for the two preceding years.

Casualties to vessels.

247. There were 35 cases of grounding and eight of collision during the year. As the result of the collisions one steamer and two cargo-boats were sunk. Suitable action was taken where a Pilot was found to be in fault.

Courts of Enquiry.

248. Sixteen cases of casualties to vessels were referred to Special Courts of Enquiry.

Examinations.

249. Seventy-six candidates, of whom 26 passed, appeared in the examinations for colonial and home-trade certificates of competency as Master, Mate or Engineer of sea-going vessels. Out of a total number of 590 candidates, 166 passed the examinations for certificates of competency as Master, Serang, Engineer and Engine-driver under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917.

PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

Arrivals and Departures of Vessels.

250. The total number of vessels that entered the port was 842 of which 238 were sea-going vessels, 523 inland steamers and 81 native sailing vessels, with a total gross tonnage of 489,664. The total number of departure was 835, including 236 sea-going vessels, 519 inland steamers and 80 native sailing vessels, with a total gross tonnage of 476,049.

Casualties to vessels.

251. There were two casualties to vessels, of which one resulted in the total loss of the vessel and the other was a case of grounding. No Marine Court of Enquiry was held.

Examinations.

252. Candidates numbering 158, of whom 94 passed sat in the examinations for certificates of competency as Master, Serang, Engineer and Engine-driver under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917.

SHIPPING OFFICES, CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

Finance.

253. The revenue of the Shipping Offices amounted to Rs. 1,26,938 and the expenditure to Rs. 84,438 against Rs. 86,356 and Rs. 60,250, respectively, in the preceding year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

254. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was:—

Shipped.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	Increase.	Decrease.
European	936	575	.....	361
Indian	35,403	44,466	9,063	.....
	36,339	45,041	8,702	.....

Discharged.

	1918-19	1919-20.	Increase.	Decrease.
European	1,746	1,005	.....	741
Indian	25,439	34,232	8,793	.....
	27,185	35,237	8,052	.....

There were 89 Anglo-Indians shipped under European articles and 322 under Indian articles.

CHITTAGONG SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance.

255. The revenue of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 1,040 and the expenditure to Rs. 659 against Rs. 1,957 and Rs. 580, respectively, in the previous year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

256. The number of seamen of all nationalities shipped and discharged during the year under report, was 148 and 755 respectively against 174 and 693 in the previous year.

HEALTH OF THE PORTS OF CALCUTTA AND CHITTAGONG.

General remarks.

257. The outstanding feature of the year was the large increase in the work of the department, owing to the re-introduction of the medical examination of the passengers and crew of all vessels arriving from Indian ports, which had previously been discontinued since the year 1909. Under the instructions of the Government of India, the port sanitary rules were amended by the local Government in order to authorise the inspection of all coasters and vessels arriving from or bound for Rangoon. This procedure was instituted with the object of controlling the spread of epidemic influenza and pneumonia by means of ships.

Both at Calcutta and at Chittagong, the disinfection of vessels of various classes continued to be carried out with special reference to plague. A number of vessels entering the port were also claytonised at Calcutta.

Under the orders of the local Government, a detailed investigation of the pollution of the Hooghly was begun in March 1919 and concluded in September 1920.

To protect India from yellow fever, the Government of India appointed a representative committee which met at Calcutta during the month of February in 1920.

The Government of Bengal have started a detailed inquiry in regard to stegomyia control in the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

258. The number of inward bound vessels inspected on the river and in docks after arrival rose from 433 to 604 and that of outward bound vessels inspected rose from 525 to 790. **Inspections of vessels.**

The number of crew and passengers of both outward and inward bound vessels inspected, rejected and disinfected during the year is furnished in the following statement:—

Vessels.	Crew.		Passengers.		Disinfection of clothing, etc.	
	Passed.	Rejected.	Passed.	Rejected.	Crew.	Passengers.
Outward bound ...	60,608	62	52,287	22	32,860	10,470
Inward „ ...	36,870	...	14,214	...	...	...

Altogether 10,308 cargo-boats were inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector against 11,990 in 1918.

259. There were 18 deaths reported to have occurred in hospitals during the year. The admission-rate to hospitals for all diseases calculated on arrival figures was 45·42 per mille. **Health of Seamen Europeans.**

There were 103 admission for venereal diseases representing 15 per cent. of the total number of admissions.

260. According to the last census the Asiatic population of the port is 25,843. The total number of deaths reported during the year was 144 of which 80 were due to cholera, 22 to accidents and 10 to drowning. **Asiatics.**

261. There was a severe outbreak of cholera at No. 8 Jetty shed amongst the intending passengers for Rangoon. Arrangements were made, in consultation with the Health Officer of the Corporation of Calcutta, to locate the passengers at the Surinam Depôt, where the British India Steam Navigation Company co-operated by supplying rice and dâl, etc., to the passengers, There was also another outbreak of cholera amongst the returned pilgrims from the Ganga Sagar mêla in January 1919. **Infectious diseases.**

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

262. The general sanitation of the port was, on the whole, satisfactory. The Port was free from plague, as it has been for the last 14 years. **General.**

About a dozen cases of influenza were detected on board steamers bound from Rangoon, Calcutta, Singapore and Mauritius. In none of these vessels was the disease found in epidemic form, and there was no death.

There was an outbreak of beri-beri in a mild epidemic form on board an American steamer S.S. *Panney* bound from Torriveja, Spain.

263. The total number of vessels inspected was 215, against 30 in the previous year. This increase is due to the inspection of coasting vessels both coming and going. The latter accounted for three-fourths of the total number. **Inspections of vessels.**

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

264. The total receipts of the Agency for the year were Rs. 10,10,645 and the expenditure was Rs. 9,43,226. **Finance.**

265. The tonnage dealt with was 62,966, including 1,099,846 packages and 75,618 firebricks. **Tonnage.**

The total value of freight bills passed by the Agency was Rs. 6,72,256.

BENGAL SMOKE NUISANCES COMMISSION.

Meetings of the Commission.

266. The Commission held 12 meetings during the year for the transaction of their business.

Inspections and observations.

267. The number of observations of smoke emission taken was 9,943 and the number of factories visited for instruction, etc., was 3,288.

The average emission of the controlled smoke in the denser grades expressed in terms of scale 6 has been reduced to 1·23 minutes in the hour from 1.27 minutes in the previous year. This is the lowest average on record. A very interesting account is given in the report of the successful efforts made to reduce offensive smoke from oil burning steamers during their stay in the port.

Satisfactory progress has been made in laying down new plants. Plans of 54 installations were examined and passed during the year, as compared with 47 in the previous year.

The number of complaints received during the year from the general public was 58 against 48 in 1918-19, The Commission report that, on investigation, many of the complaints were found to be not only justified but necessary in the interests of public health. The number of offences reported to owners of furnaces for departmental action was 1,260, the results being in most cases satisfactory.

Prosecutions.

268. Statutory warnings were served and prosecutions undertaken in 16 and 11 cases, respectively, the corresponding figures for the two previous years being 23 and 18 in 1918-19, and 60 and 36 in 1917-18. The reduction in the number of prosecutions, which is the lowest on record, was due largely to the employment of trained firemen and the use of improved installations, and, as it was accompanied by a general reduction in smoke nuisances of all kinds, is particularly satisfactory.

The number of electric motors installed was 168, or almost double the number installed in the previous year. A large number of gas appliances was also installed with a resulting diminution in the amount of smoke emitted.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

General features of administration

269. The year under review being the first complete year after the cessation of hostilities has brought about a marked improvement in the condition of the Trust and the trade of the Port, as illustrated by the following comparative statistics of traffic:—

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
I.—Nett Tonnage of the port ...	4 256,987	3,714,344	2,967,798	2,804 680	2,094,011	2,292,462	2,941,846
II.—Jetties, Imports	1,186,797	917,978	788,431	686,010	633,693	574,833	713,746
III.—Docks, Imports ...	613,876	700,133	570,997	444,210	363,383	482,403	653,066
IV.—Docks, General Exports ...	1.231,589	920,659	1,054,985	1,185,159	995,112	1,097,562	1,146,479
V.—Docks, Coal ...	3,017,180	2,633,805	1,610,645	1,994,528	1,014,993	1,333,285	2,264,976

The figures show that there has been a marked increase under every head in comparison with the figures of the preceding year.

Income.

270. The total income amounted to Rs. 2,23,55,613 against the revised estimate of Rs. 2,10,04,056 for the year under review and the actuals of Rs. 1,90,58,513 of the preceding year.

Expenditure.

271. The expenditure on Revenue account amounted to Rs. 2,25,51,874 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 2,14,26,897 for the year and Rs. 1,84,14,423 the actual expenditure for the previous year.

Capital Works.

272. The chief capital works in progress during the year were—

(*a*) The riverside berths at Garden Reach.

(*b*) Reconstruction of No. 3, Calcutta Jetty.

(*c*) New four-storied Tea Warehouse in Hide Road.

(*d*) Reclamation work and land acquisition in connection with the new dock scheme.

(*e*) Purchase of the sloop " Pansy " from the Admiralty to replace the Despatch Vessel " Retriever."

Capital Account.

273. The total liabilities of the Trust on capital account at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 9;84 crores, while the total assets were Rs. 14;16 crores. The difference of Rs. 4·32 crores is the largest on record.

The following table shows the Income and Expenditure of the Calcutta Port Trust during the year 1919-20 together with figures of the previous year.

	1919-20.				1918-19.				Difference between nett balances.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett Revenue.	Nett Expenditure.	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett Revenue.	Nett Expenditure.	Increase 1919-20.	Decrease 1918-19.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Control	30,132	12,71 288	.....	12,41,156	19,958	10,92,744	.....	10,72,786	.....	1,68,370
II. Jetties	25,83,016	13,25,994	12,57,022	.....	26,84,199	9,67,201	17,16,998	.....	.....	4,59,976
III. Tea Warehouse	4,83,045	1,70,457	3,12,588	.....	3,16,305	1,57,764	1,58,541	.....	1,54,047	.....
IV. Petroleum Wharf	4,65,938	38,664	4,27,274	.....	4,01,770	35,532	3,66.238	.....	61,036	.....
V. Inland Vessels Wharves	4,56,732	2,21,299	2,35,433	.....	4,61,425	2,09,266	2,52,159	.....	.....	16,726
VI. Rentable Land and Buildings ...	10,01,680	1,96,875	8,04,805	.....	8,84,119	1,71,879	7,12,240	.....	92,565	.....
VII. Port	4,94,135	11,18,095	.....	6,23,960	4,48,344	7,11,731	.....	2,63,387	.....	3,60,573
VIII. Port Approaches	6,08,098	12,25,162	.....	6.17,064	5,01,453	10,00,535	.....	4,99,082	.. ...	1,17,982
IX. Railway	19,33,589	19,00,732	32,857	.....	16,86,772	13,57,540	3,29,232	.....	.....	2,96,375
X. Wet Docks	48,13,546	40,75,008	7,38,538	.....	40,28,752	30,22,432	10,06,320	.....	.....	2,67,782
XI. Dry Docks	3,03,108	98,676	2,04,432	.....	2,63,269	87,960	1,75,309	.....	29,123	.....
XII. Ferry Service	5,09,626	4,62,371	47,255	.....	4,68,692	3,68,616	1,00,076	.....	.....	52,821
XIII. River Dues	17,87,568	.....	17,87,568	.....	13,31,406	.....	13,31,406	.....	4,56.162	.....
XIV. Special War Surcharge	64,66.809	.....	64,66,809	.....	52,06,535	.....	52,06,535	.....	12,60 274	.....
Sale of unserviceable materials	82,220	.....	82,220	.....	1 70,214	.....	1,70,214	.....	.....	87,994
Contribution from Howrah Bridge	27,531	.....	27,531	.....	25,160	.....	25,160	.....	2,371	.....
Interest on Revenue Reserve	81,679	.....	81,679	.....	81,601	.....	81,601	.....	78	.....
Haulage charges on rolling stock payable by Capital to Revenue	30,743	.....	30,743	.....	38,124	.....	38,124	.....	.....	7,381
Difference in Exchange	1,96,419	.....	1,96,419	.....	40,415	.....	40,415	... ..	1,56,004	.....
Interest and Sinking Fund Charges	.....	60,90.557	.....	60,90,557	.....	60,47.342	.....	60,47,342	.....	43,215
Contribution to Vessels Replacement Fund ...	.....	5,00,000	.....	5,00,000	.....	5,00,000	.....	5,00,000	.....	.....
Depreciation of Securities of Revenue Reserve Fund	.....	1,46,205	.....	1,46,205	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,46.205
Depreciation of securities of Vessels Replacement Fund	.....	1,75,400	.....	1,75,400	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,75,400
Depreciation of Securities of Fire Insurance Fund	.....	50,749	.....	50,749	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50,749
Reserve Fund for Depreciation of Securities of Provident Fund	.....	7,240	.....	7,240	.....	9,804	.....	9.804	2,564	.....
War Bonus	.....	3,91,458	.....	3,91,458	.....	1,64,717	.....	1,64,717	.....	2,26,741
Appropriation to Revenue Reserve Fund ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,00,000	.....	25,00,000	25,00,000	.....
Appropriation to meet Depreciation of Sinking Fund Investment	.....	30,85,645	.....	30,85,645	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30,85,645
Cancellation of Bills and write-back of adjustment prior to 1918-19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,360	.....	9,360	9,360	.....
Total ...	2,23,55,614	2,25,51,875	1,27,33,173	1,29,29,434	1,90,58,513	1,84,14,423	1,17,10.568	1,10,66,478	47,23,584	55,63,935

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Income.

274. The ordinary receipts of the Port Fund during the year under review amounted to Rs. 5,41,713 (exclusive of the ordinary Government grant of Rs. 1,50,000 for the improvement of the Port), as against Rs. 2,28,310 in the preceding year. Further grants were made by Government of Rs. 3,25,000 for revetment work and of Rs. 8,00,000 for the purchase of the Dredger "Pelican." This latter grant has not been utilised, as the "Pelican" was found unsuitable for the Port.

The increase was mainly due to the general improvement of trade following the termination of the war.

Expenditure.

275. The ordinary expenditure of the Port Fund for the year amounted to Rs. 6,51,538 as against Rs. 4,60,263 of the previous year. The increase was mainly due to an all-round increase of pay of the Port Commissioners' employees, the grant of a bonus of a month's pay to clerks, repairs to the Commissioners' buildings, increased cost of stores and the purchase of a new motor launch for river survey work. The capital expenditure from the Port Fund during the year amounted to Rs. 2,62,348.

Assets and Liabilities.

276. The value of the Port Commissioners' properties, as estimated on the 31st March 1920, stands at Rs. 50,61, 491, and the liabilities, excluding loans from Government for revetment work, at Rs. 1,27,942. The increased rates of river dues, mooring and unmooring charges, port dues, etc., which were adopted during the previous year, as a war measure continued during the year.

Dredging Report.

277. The dredger "Karnafuli I" worked at the Outer and Inner Bars for 156 days dredging 7,172,200 cubic feet.

Trade.

278. The total value of foreign and coasting sea-borne trade shows an improvement of over 62 per cent. over that of the previous year.

Sanitation.

279. The general health of the Port was good.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Revenue account.

280. The year began with deficit on Revenue account of Rs. 3,22,159.

Receipts and Expenditure.

281. The income of the Bridge during the year amounted to Rs. 3,91,254 as against Rs. 3,74,648 of the preceding year. The expenditure was Rs. 3,51,994 against Rs. 2,93,863 of the previous year, so that the closing deficit on the 31st March 1920 was Rs. 2,82,899.

The number of accidents during the year was 37 as compared with 35, 39. 17 and 11 in the preceding four years.

The Bridge was opened during the year on 309 occasions, 52 being day openings and 257 night openings.

The type of the proposed new bridge has not been finally decided, but this important question is under the consideration of Government in communication with the interests concerned.

BENGAL STEAM BOILERS COMMISSION.

Inspections of boilers.

282. The total number of boilers on the registers for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commissioners was 5,993 against 5,735 in the previous year. Altogether 5,452 boilers were inspected during the year. One hundred and forty-two boilers were struck off the boiler registers during the year, as they had not been presented for survey over five consecutive years or had been removed out of jurisdiction or condemned as unfit for further service. Six hundred and seventy-five boilers were not presented for inspection being temporarily out of use or undergoing repairs.

Receipts and Expenditure.

283. The total receipts and expenditure during the year were Rs. 1,11,450 and Rs. 88,286 as against Rs. 1,20,166 and Rs. 81,849, respectively, during the previous year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the Agricultural Department, Bengal, for the year ending 31st March 1920].

Administration.

284. Mr. R. S. Finlow officiated as Director of Agriculture during the year under review from the 13th May, when Mr. S. Milligan went on leave. Mr. K. McLean, Deputy Director, was in charge of the Eastern Circle; and Rai Rajeswar Das Gupta Bahadur, Deputy Director, held charge of the Western Circle in addition to the Northern Circle during Mr. Smith's absence on leave from the former circle. Mr. Hector, the Economic Botanist, officiated as Agricultural Chemist till the 15th December 1919, when he handed over charge of the current duties of these offices to Mr. K. McLean on his appointment as officiating Imperial Economic Botanist at Pusa. During the year an important change was made by the formation of a Lower Subordinate Agricultural Service of Demonstrators, on a time-scale of Rs. 30—2/2—50 a month, with the ultimate intention of placing one demonstrator in each thana (police-station).

Agricultural Education.

285. The number of students from Bengal at the Agricultural College at Sabour in the province of Bihar and Orissa rose from 32 in the previous year to 43 in the year under review; of these, seven held scholarships awarded by District Boards, three by Government and one by the Education Department. Ten passed the final examination.

Of two Agricultural Vernacular Schools at Dacca and Chinsura for the training of the sons of cultivators in improvements in purely practical agriculture, the establishment of which was sanctioned last year, the one at Dacca was opened in January 1920; and the other is expected to be completed in the current year. Help has also been afforded to two secondary schools in the teaching of agriculture. Steps were taken to work out the scheme for the Agricultural Institute at Dacca on the lines recommended by the University Commission and for the acquisition of land for the same. The scheme aims at giving to young men who have already taken a course of pure science a thoroughly practical agricultural education up to the highest standard.

Research and Experiment.

286. The results of the research work during the year reveal that the new classic races, the *kakya Bombai* variety of jute and the *indrasail* variety of paddy, are likely to be surpassed by other races discovered by a process of selection by the Department. Two strains of *Corchorus capsularis* have now, it is reported, definitely beaten *kakya Bombai*. They are not attacked by the obscure disease known as *chlorosis*. "Chinsura Green," a race of *Corchorus olitorius*, has been found to have an outstanding yielding capacity. A race of winter paddy, *dudsar*, has been discovered, which, it is hoped, will give a slightly better yield than *indrasail* and it ripens slightly earlier. The experiments in transplanting *kataktara aus* rice, were continued with successful results in Western Bengal.

One thousand eight hundred and twelve maunds of *kakya Bombai* seed were sold at cost price. A total of about 4,800 maunds of *indrasail* seed was distributed in ten-pound packets on condition that an equivalent amount should be returned after the harvest. There has been little extension of cultivation of this variety of rice, as the cultivators appear to have kept their surplus stocks for consumption and not for seed, but it is reported that the area under *kakya Bombai* was doubled during the year under review. It is noticeable that the cultivator is beginning to realise that it is worth

while to pay a high price for a superior seed supplied by the Department and that he has now got over his former diffidence in accepting advice offered him by its officers. As a result of the work on the Burirhat Farm, cultivators in the neighbourhood have begun to grow Sumatra tobacco; and a Co-operative Sale Society has been formed amongst them in order to enable them to procure the best market for their produce. A keen demand exists for the *tanna* variety of sugarcane, which has been tentatively chosen as the cane most suitable for distribution. On the other hand the results of cotton cultivation are, owing to natural conditions, not encouraging. The demand for bonemeal for transplanted paddy in the Burdwan Division has exceeded the quantity available for supply. The cultivation of ground-nut in that division continues to expand; and demonstrations have now been extended to unfertile high lands in the district of Nadia. Special attention was paid during the year to popularising the cultivation of *rabi* crops in the Rajshahi Division, where 1,800 maunds of seed were sold. Valuable services were also rendered in the distribution by sale or loan of 15,100 maunds of *rabi* seeds in the areas affected by the cyclone of the 24th September. Good work is being done in Government and Court of Wards' estates in popularising the use of improved seed.

District Farms.

287. District farms at Mymensingh, Comilla and Bogra, the establishment of which was sanctioned in 1918-19, were opened during the year under review. Preparations are in progress for starting similar farms in some other districts. In addition to the co-operation of the District Boards of Pabna and Bakarganj mentioned last year, the District Board of Faridpur has come forward with an offer of a site for a farm in that district. Some District Boards are also employing officers of their own to carry out demonstrations of the improved agricultural produce recommended by the Agricultural Department.

Agricultural Associations.

288. As mentioned last year, resolution No. 631 T.R., dated the 7th June 1919, was published during this year, explaining the organization and policy of the department. In that resolution the necessity of private effort as an important factor in agricultural development was emphasised and the formation of private agricultural associations of practical agriculturists to that end commended. Much satisfactory work on these lines has already been done. There are nearly 200 such associations in the Burdwan Division. Over 100 rural associations have been formed in Eastern Bengal, there has also been some extension in Northern Bengal. With some exceptions they are doing useful work. As a result of that resolution, District Boards have also come forward to co-operate with Government in the development of agriculture, by helping in the establishment of farms.

Cattle-breeding.

289. Cattle and fodder investigations at Rangpur Cattle Farm were rigorously prosecuted during the year under review. Progress was also made in the investigation of diseases.

Sericulture.

290. There has been further progress in the development of sericulture. The receipts from the sale of Government-examined seeds of silk-worms increased by 35 per cent. Twenty-eight per cent. of the total seed consumed is now reported to be Government-examined seed. There has been a substantial expansion of mulberry cultivation on account of the good prices now obtainable for silk. The question of the reorganization of the sericultural branch of the department came under examination during the year; and sanction has been received for the creation of the appointment of a special Deputy Director of Sericulutre.

Provincial Board of Agriculture.

291. An important event of the year was the inaugural meeting of the Board of the Agricultural Department opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 18th March 1920. To it a large number of visitors representative of the country was invited, and many questions of practical interest were discussed.

Exhibitions.

292. The department assisted at a number of agricultural exhibitions during the year. It is under contemplation to have small Government exhibitions annually at each district farm in order to develop a competitive spirit in the raising of good produce by the distribution of prizes.

Fisheries.

[Report on the Department of Fisheries, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, for the year ending the 31st March 1920.]

Fisheries.

293. Dr. Baini Prashad, Superintendent of Fisheries, officiated for Mr. Southwell as Director of Fisheries during the year, when he left the department to take up an appointment in the Zoological Survey of India. Mr. Southwell whilst on leave resigned his appointment. Mr. B. Das, Superintendent of Fisheries, unfortunately died at Cuttack on the 24th September 1919. The department thus lost the whole of its permanent superior staff during the year.

This state of affairs proved a severe handicap to the department. Scientific research work suffered owing to the time taken up in ordinary administrative work; and all projects for the development of the department were kept in abeyance. The year however saw the introduction of the experiment of District Fishery Officers in the three districts of Dacca, Khulna and Puri. These officers were mainly employed in making a complete survey of fisheries and in the initiation of co-operative societies amongst fishermen. They have made a satisfactory start.

Hilsa investigations during the year were brought to an abrupt close by the cyclone of the 24th September 1919. But it is satisfactory to note that the problem of the breeding of carp in confined waters is reported to be in process of being solved. The scheme for the establishment of a centre for investigations in the culture of carp is under the consideration of Government.

The total number of selected fry supplied to the public by the department amounted to 880,500 against 524,000 supplied during the year 1918-19, including 100,000 supplied free of cost to fishermen in the district of Bankura during the famine. The fry supplied by the Department appears to be gaining in popularity.

Seven new co-operative societies of fishermen were established during the year, four in Bengal and three in Bihar and Orissa. Six of these societies were organised by the District Fishery Officers. The total number was 32 in Bengal and 7 in Bihar and Orissa.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1919-20; Crop forecasts of Bengal for the year 1919-20. Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the season.

294. In March and the beginning of April there was a prolonged drought which delayed the sowing of *bhadoi* crops, especially in Northern and Eastern Bengal. It also caused premature flowering of some early sown jute. Favourable weather in the latter part of April enabled large areas of jute and low-land paddy to be sown, and late-sown crops in particular were benefited by the moderate rainfall and slow rise of the rivers in May. June was also a good month. In the latter part of July and the greater part of August the rainfall was unevenly distributed; for, whereas Western Bengal had ample and even in places excessive rainfall, there was a general deficiency throughout Eastern and Northern Bengal. In Eastern and Northern Bengal, too, the rivers were much lower than usual, with the result that steeping of jute and transplanting of paddy were seriously delayed. These operations were, however, accelerated by the rain that fell in the latter part of August and in the first part of September. In September the rainfall was generally in excess, and the heavy rain during the cyclone in Eastern Bengal saved a large area of late transplanted paddy. Defective rain in October, however, somewhat adversely affected the yield of the latter crop on higher lands. The rainfall in November was generally above the average

and greatly facilitated the sowings of spring crops, but the long drought in December and January was unfavourable for their further development. The February rain, though late, was mainly beneficial, especially to summer rice, but damage was done in places by too heavy rain or by hail. On the whole, the season may be regarded as satisfactory for autumn and winter crops and fair for spring crops.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1919-20 of *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops, as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year:—

Name of harvests.	Normal area, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1918-19, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1919-20, in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year.	
				1918-19.	1919-20.
Bhadoi ...	8,974,500	8,399,800	8,528,500	77	85
Aghani — Winter rice ...	16,852,700	15,895,800	15,606,100	77	89
Aghani — Sugarcane ...	247,500	218,900	217,900	77	89
Aghani — Other sugar-producing plants.	59,000	47,200	56,300	...	...
Rabi	5,735,500	4,418,400	4,391,500	72	82
Total ...	31,869,200	28,980,100	28,800,300	...	...

Bhadoi crops (excepting jute).

295. Weather conditions in the beginning of the season were generally favourable in West Bengal, but less favourable in North and East Bengal owing to insufficient rainfall. Consequently, sowings which commenced at the usual time in West Bengal finished somewhat late in North and East Bengal. Good rainfall in June favoured the growth of the crops. Heavy rainfall in July and in the early part of August caused damage in the districts of the Presidency Division, Hooghly, Bogra, Pabna, Malda, Faridpur and Bakarganj. Some injury by insects was also reported from the 24-Parganas, Jessore and Jalpaiguri. On the whole, however, the season was decidedly better than that of 1918, and the outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops of the province was returned at 85 per cent. of the normal, as against 77 per cent. reported in 1918.

Jute.

296. The weather was, on account of drought unfavourable for the sowing of the low-land crop in late February and early March. Only about 30 per cent. of the low-land crop was sown at the normal time, and even this was so severely affected by the drought that premature flowering took place on a wide scale. In East and North Bengal a very large area was sown, in low lands as well as in high lands, during the favourable weather of the latter part of April; and the late-sown low-land crop, in particular, was benefited by the comparatively scanty rainfall and the slow rise of the rivers in East Bengal in May. In West Bengal a good deal of jute was sown on somewhat heavy rain at the beginning of May; but insufficient rain afterwards hindered further sowings until the end of May and, in some places, till the beginning of June. Subsequently, with the exception of parts of West Bengal, where the rainfall was rather too heavy, the season was generally excellent for the jute crop, which made great progress in consequence. There was a certain amount of damage by insects, but nothing serious anywhere. The total outturn of the crop is returned at 7,567,832 bales of 400 lbs., against 6,348,829 bales last year, an increase of 1,219,003 bales.

Winter rice.

297. The weather was favourable throughout for the broadcast *aman* rice crops. In West Bengal it was also exceptionally good for transplanted *aman* rice in the period July-September. Insufficient rain in October, however, affected the yield on high lands to a slight extent. In East and North Bengal the conditions were not good for transplanted rice in July and August, owing to deficient rainfall during this period. At one time matters looked somewhat serious, and large areas were transplanted at a later date than is usual. In September, however, the rainfall was generally in excess,

and the heavy rain caused by the cyclone in East Bengal did great good to transplanted rice. On the whole the broadcast *aman* rice was very good, and the transplanted rice crop was satisfactory. The Provincial outturn was estimated at 89 per cent. of the normal against 77 per cent. last year.

Sugarcane.

298. At planting time the germination of the crop was retarded in places owing to insufficient rainfall. Subsequently, till the end of September, the weather conditions were generally good, though some damage was caused by excessive rainfall in parts of Nadia, Jessore, Burdwan, Pabna, Faridpur and Noakhali. The cyclone in Eastern Bengal did considerable damage to the crop in Dacca, Faridpur and parts of Mymensingh. Lack of rain after the beginning of October also tended to spoil what was otherwise a good season. The outturn for the province worked out at 89 per cent. of the normal, against 77 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

299. The weather was generally good at the sowing time. Subsequently, the long spell of drought, which prevailed in December and January, greatly interfered with the growth of crops; but the February rainfall, though late, was, on the whole, beneficial, especially to summer paddy. Damage by insects was reported from Jessore and Jalpaiguri. The season, though not altogether favourable, was better than last year. The outturn of the different *rabi* crops for the province as a whole was 82 per cent. of the normal, against 72 per cent. in 1918.

Cotton.

300. The weather was not generally favourable, especially in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where heavy rain in July and August affected the early crop. Good weather for both late and early crops prevailed in September and October, but rainfall in the middle of November caused considerable damage in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The dry weather in December and January benefited the late crop. On the whole the season was fair for the late crop, but unfavourable for the early crop. The total outturn of cotton (both early and late), exclusive of Hill Tippera, was estimated at 21,085 bales this year, against 28,713 bales in 1918.

Area under cultivation.

301. The total cropped area was returned at 28,800,300 acres against 28,980,100 acres for the previous year. Figures for the principal crops are given in the following table:—

Name of crops.	Normal area, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1918-19, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1919-20 in acres.
Rice	22,352,500	21,332,100	20,940,000
Other food grains, including *Marua* and Pulses	2,294,400	1,613,300	1,636,300
Jute	2,452,300	2,219,200	2,458,900
Oilseeds	1,909,600	1,523,400	1,475,700
Tobacco	408,600	335,900	342,500
Sugarcane	247,500	218,900	217,900

Prices.

302. During the greater part of the year the prices of staple food crops, especially those of rice, were unprecedentedly high, owing to poor harvests throughout India in the previous year, and also to various causes arising out of the war. In the beginning the prices of rice were somewhat above the normal level; from August they rose continuously till the end of November, when they began to fall, partly as a result of the importation of Burma rice and partly because of the coming on to the market of the earliest produce of the new crop. In spite of better than average crops throughout India, and especially in Bengal, the price of cleaned rice had only declined by about Re. 1-9 per maund, or 18 per cent., up to the end of March 1920. This is to be attributed to the world causes already referred to, and shows that Indian prices are governed by these. The Jute market fluctuated a good deal. July, August and September saw a period of record prices, during which cultivators realised as much as Rs. 20 per maund for their jute. Subsequently, the value of lower priced fibre declined from about

Rs. 10 or more to about Rs. 4. There remained, however, a wide margin between the price of different grades, and Rs. 12 or more could be obtained for good quality fibre at the end of the period under review. The prices of winter rice (common) at the time of harvest ranged from Rs. 5-10 per maund at Bogra to Rs. 8 per maund at Hooghly, and those of autumn rice from Rs. 4 per maund at Malda to Rs. 9-8 per maund at Jessore.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial.]

Development.

303. During the year under report the total number of societies increased from 4,256 to 5,408 and of members from 179,007 to 217,175, while the working capital rose from Rs. 2,30,80,156 to Rs. 2,82,61,564. The greatest demand for new societies was in the area affected by the cyclone of the 24th and 25th September. Thirty-eight societies were liquidated during the year as against 81 in the previous year; and 39 were closed without recourse to liquidation.

Provincial Bank.

304. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Federation, Limited, continued to make good progress and to render assistance to its affiliated societies in investing their idle funds. The profit for the year ending 30th June 1920 amounted to Rs. 30,580 against Rs. 17,511 of the previous year. The membership increased from 57 to 69, share capital from Rs. 2,08,950 to Rs. 2,59,075, while Rs. 6,643 has been transferred to the reserve fund. The working capital has decreased from Rs. 19,63,069 to Rs. 19,58,550. This is ascribed to the fact that deposits carrying high rates of interest are being gradually paid off and fresh deposits are being accepted only at a lower rate of interest.

Central Banks.

305. The number of central banks increased from 58 to 64, their working capital from Rs. 82½ lakhs to Rs. 104 lakhs and their paid-up share capital from Rs. 11¾ lakhs to Rs. 13¾ lakhs. The Central Banks advanced Rs. 56½ lakhs and recovered Rs. 36½ lakhs against Rs. 32½ lakhs and Rs. 23 lakhs, respectively, in 1918-19. The large increase in the amount of loans is attributed to the havoc wrought by the cyclone and the general high range of prices; at the same time collections represented on the amount of outstanding loans 51 per cent. against 39 per cent. of the previous year.

The number of unions decreased from 12 to 6 in the year under review.

Agricultural Societies.

306. Agricultural societies increased in number from 3,923 at the end of 1918-19 to 4,977 at the end of the year under review. Ninety-two per cent. of those societies are credit societies, whose membership has risen from 128,471 to 147,923, working capital from Rs. 86½ lakhs to Rs. 104 lakhs, and paid-up share capital from Rs. 65,252 to Rs. 1½ lakhs. The increase in share capital is due to the adoption of the share system in order to make the societies financially independent.

The most important developments amongst agricultural non-credit societies have taken place in irrigation societies in Bankura and in milk societies near Calcutta. The possibilities of irrigation societies in Bankura are receiving the special attention of the co-operative department, and it is hoped that they will be able to take advantage of the provisions of the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Drainage Act which was recently passed in Council. The number of milk societies has increased from 19 to 40, which supply from 42 to 52 maunds of milk per day to Calcutta. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society made a net profit of Rs. 1¾ lakhs during the year and continued its career of general usefulness in spheres other than ganja cultivation. The Sunderbans Supply and Sale Society made a profit of Rs. 7,035; the society has now decided to erect granaries for storing, and to purchase machinery for husking paddy.

Non-agricultural Societies.

307. The number of non-agricultural societies has risen from 262 to 360 and the number of members from 36,091 to 50,091. The working capital has also increased from Rs. 36⅕ lakhs to Rs. 47¾ lakhs.

Amongst non-agricultural societies the most remarkable advance was in the demand for Store and Supply societies, of which the number increased from 18 to 65. The increase is due to the prevailing high prices. Such societies are, it is reported, doing well on the whole, whilst the demand is on the increase. There was an increase of 20 non-agricultural credit societies and of 28 societies amongst weavers. In this connection the Bankura District Co-operative Industrial Union continued its useful activity. It provided employment for 550 families of weavers, supplied finished cloth worth Rs. 1,37,668 and made a profit of Rs. 7,351.

308. The Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society which also aims at being a central bureau of information and advice on matters relating to co-operation, continued to do useful propaganda work by means of lectures and through its organs, " The Bengal, Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Journal " and the " Bhandar." Under the auspices of the society six public lectures were delivered in Calcutta. The society also held conferences at Khulna and at Bhanguria in Pabna district at which medals and watches were presented to the secretaries of the best managed rural societies. **Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society.**

309. The Officers of the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments continued to work together and co-ordinate their efforts. The co-operative societies in many places have popularised *Kakya Bombai* jute, *Indrasail* paddy, green manure and ground-nut. The Sericultural Department has rendered great assistance to the co-operative societies in Malda. **Co-operation and Agriculture.**

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Gardens, Darjeeling, for the year 1919-20.]

310. During the latter half of the year under report weather conditions were somewhat abnormal, and the rainfall was excessive. The garden fortunately escaped the cyclone, which caused heavy damage to trees and dwelling houses in the Eastern Bengal. **Royal Botanic Garden. General.**

The year had been particularly well suited for the display of cold weather annuals, which were supplemented by the importation of plants usually seen in India in the hills only, to add to the attractiveness of the collection. Three vistas opened last year have resulted in a great improvement to the garden. About 50 young trees and shrubs were planted out, nearly half of them being species new to the garden.

311. Over 40,000 young trees and shrubs were distributed and some 2,200 plants were received. About 2,300 packages and 135 lbs. of seeds, mostly of trees and shrubs, were distributed within and outside India, to Government or other institutions and to private parties throughout the British Empire. A considerable quantity, including palm seed, went to Delhi. Over 400 packets and 60 lbs. of seed were received, exclusive of two barrels of mahogany seed, from Kew. **Plants and seed distribution.**

312. Work was carried out in the Herbarium with the aid of the Botanical Survey Department. Over 6,000 sheets were added to the Herbarium, and over 2,000 were distributed to other herbaria, excluding over 9,000 sent on loan for work at Kew. The additions to the library were less than the usual number and included over 200 periodicals and reports. **Herbarium and Library.**

313. No publication was issued during the year. Part II of Volume XII of the Annuals of the Garden was completed in letterpress and plates during the year. **Publications.**

314. The work in these gardens was mostly of a routine horticultural character. **Calcutta Gardens.**

315. This Garden was kept up to the standard of past years in spite of epidemics amongst the labour force, shortage of stores and adverse weather conditions during the year under report. About 30 new species were planted **Lloyd Botanic Garden Darjeeling.**

out and some 3,497 plants, 3,882 dozen seedlings of annuals, 386 bulbs and over 12,000 packets of seed were distributed. The guide to the Lloyd Botanic Garden is being brought up to date with photographic illustrations for publication.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1919-20.]

Plantations.

316. The total area under a full complement of cinchona on the Mungpoo and Munsong Plantations was 3,080 acres, as compared with 2,600 acres in 1918-19. The approximate number of cinchona trees is 5,090,000, of which about 3,610,000 are at Munsong and 1,480,000 at Mungpoo. During the year the cultural conditions of both plantations were satisfactory.

Outturn.

317. Besides 514,540 lbs. of bark received from Java for the Government of India, local bark worked up in the Quinine Factory amounted to 484,245 lbs. against 766,163 lbs. in 1918-19. The quantity of quinine sulphate produced, including the products of the bark purchased in Java, amounted to 47,727·25 lbs. against 32,640·25 lbs. in the previous year. In addition, 1,022 lbs. of hydrochlorides and 15,166 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were manufactured.

The total provincial quinine reserve stood at 50,356 lbs. 11 oz. at the end of the year 1919-20. This was 44,831 lbs. less than the balance, including the amount under suspense, at the close of the year 1918-19. The value of stock of all sorts on the 31st March 1920, was Rs. 15,80,442-14-3, of which Rs. 14,09,986-4 was represented by quinine sulphate and Rs. 1,25,666 by bark.

Forests.

[Forest Administration Report for the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue].

Administration

318. There was a change in the area of the reserved forests under the Forest Department due to the inclusion of an area of 3 square miles in the Forest Reserves of the Chittagong and Kalimpong Forest Divisions. The settlement work in respect of this area was completed and some progress in the work of demarcation was made in the Buxa and Chittagong Forest Divisions. A revised working plan for the Jalpaiguri Forest Division was brought into force. The working plans for the Upper Hill Forests of the Darjeeling Division and for the Mahaldaram Forests in the Kurseong Division were revised.

Two and a half miles of cart roads and 9 miles of bridle-paths and several bridges were constructed. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 21,038 against Rs. 18,757, and on new buildings and repairs to Rs. 49,254 against Rs. 33,550 in the previous year. Several buildings in the Sunderbans destroyed by the cyclone of 1919 were replaced. Good progress was made in housing forest subordinates in most of the Forest Divisions.

Communications and Buildings.

319. The important buildings constructed were a rest-house at Balpara in the Buxa Division and an office and station officers' quarters at the Fringkheong toll station in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division.

Forests offences.

320. There was a decrease in the total number of forest officers reported, the number being 3,269 against 3,694 in the previous year.

Protection from fire.

321. The area in which fire protection was attempted comprised 100,272 acres and the percentage of successful protection was 99·4. The

area burnt over amounted to 2,540 acres against 24,876 acres in the previous year. The cost per square mile was Rs. 6-0-8 against Rs. 7-9-9 in the previous year. In 8 out of 15 cases the causes of the fires were undetected.

322. The area open to grazing was 4,826 square miles against 4,892 square miles in the preceding year. There was a decrease in the total number of cattle impounded, the number being 5,057 against 7,021 in the previous year. The decrease was mainly in the Buxa and Jalpaiguri Forests Divisions where the villagers are reported to have realised the value of looking after their cattle instead of paying the penalty. **Protection from cattle.**

323. With the cessation of demands from the Munitions Board, departmental operations were restricted to the extraction of timber required for the supply of sleepers to railways and for roads, buildings, and bridges constructed departmentally. A sale depôt is being established at Siliguri. A semi-portable saw mill was received at the close of the year and is about to be installed in the Kurseong Division. **Exploitation.**

The Murti Saw Mill in Jalpaiguri worked at a profit but as the owners were unwilling to continue, the mill has been closed down. The India Paper Pulp Company, of which Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. are the Managing Agents, commenced working out bamboos for paper pulp from the Kassalong Range in the Chittagong Hill Tracts under their lease. Minor forest produce continued to be disposed of generally under permits at fixed rates.

Sixty-eight elephants were caught by departmental kheddah operations. The most successful were the operations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, resulting in the capture of 51 elephants and a net profit amounting to Rs. 21,069 from the sale of 48 elephants.

The total value of the year's sale amounted to Rs. 16,11,644 against Rs. 14,69,226 during the preceding year. The value of the timber sold in these two years was Rs. 10,83,982 and Rs. 9,02,964. The value of the forest produce removed at privileged rates was Rs. 93,774, against Rs. 81,720 in the year 1918-19. Produce given free of royalty was worth Rs. 63,430, against Rs. 33,141 in the preceding year. Timber and other minor products were given free in large quantities in the Sunderbans to people affected by the cyclone of 1919.

The Bengal forests contributed to the successful exhibits sent to the Empire Timber Exhibition.

324. The number of persons reported to have been killed by tigers in the Sunderbans was 12, against 5 in the preceding year, and 51, the average for the past five years. The number of tigers killed in the Sunderbans was 32. **Mortality caused by wild animals.**

325. The work in the divisions was adversely affected by the loss of several officers and other changes in staff. Two Deputy Conservators resigned and a third retired. Five temporary posts were created, but the three officers appointed did not stay long enough to do useful work. A reorganization of the pay and prospects of the Imperial and Provincial Forest Services was sanctioned. **General.**

The *Sal root* fungus observation plots in Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions were twice inspected by the Divisional Forest Officers and the results recorded.

Mr. J. A. Pilgrim, tannin expert to the Government of India, obtained certain interesting results from his investigations of various tan stuffs at the Buxa Timber and Trading Company's concession at Rajabhatkhawa.

326. The financial results were satisfactory. The total revenue, which was Rs. 19,55,394 in the preceding year, rose to Rs. 20,02,819. Expenditure, however, also increased and the surplus fell from Rs. 11,21,760 to Rs. 9,47,595. Of the expenditure, 55 per cent. was on constitution, improvement and exploitation, and 45 per cent. on administration, executive and protective charges. The percentage of net income fell from 57 to 47 owing to the increased expenditure. **Financial results.**

Manufacture and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I—Industry.]

Jute. 327. Owing to the high prices realized for the crop of 1918, the area under jute increased from 2,219,212 acres to 2,458,955 acres, and the estimated outturn from 6,384,829 bales to 7,567,332 bales in the year 1919-20. During the year under report there were 72 jute mills at work, employing on an average 277,393 operatives daily—an increase of 10,729 over those of the previous year. The number of looms and spindles at work in the jute mills was 40,676 and 846,487, respectively, as against 38,951 and 815,479 in 1918. The authorised capital employed in rupees and sterling was Rs. 11,28,76,000 and £2,325,000, respectively.

Cotton. 328. Twelve cotton mills were at work, employing on an average 12,221 persons daily, as against 11,177 persons in 1918. The number of looms and spindles was 2,345 and 345,137, respectively, as compared with 2,336 and 371,333. in the year 1918. The authorised capital employed was Rs. 1,99,00,000.

Tea. 329. The area under tea in 1919 was 173,200 acres, as against 160,100 acres in the previous year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 99,505,454 lbs., as compared with 89,983,561 lbs. in 1918. The number of tea plantations totalled 317, employing on an average 155,012 permanent and 6,256 temporary hands daily.

Coal. 330. The year under review was a fairly prosperous one for first class collieries, but not for second class collieries. The total number of coal mines worked in Bengal rose from 200 in 1918 to 216 in 1919. There was a corresponding increase in the output which amounted to 5,777,632 tons in 1919, or 475,337 tons more than that of the preceding year. The total number of colliery employees also rose from 46,149 in the year 1918 to 48,642 in 1919. The coal industry suffered considerably from the difficulty experienced in securing wagons for the transport of coal to the various parts of India as well as for export, but by an arrangement effected in June 1920, the Government of India prohibited the export of coal except under license, and then only *viâ* the Kidderpore Docks, Calcutta. This measure eased the situation to a considerable extent.

Iron ore. 331. No iron ore was raised during the year 1919-20. The Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Kulti, obtained its ore from the Singhbhum district in Bihar and Orissa.

Salt and Saltpetre. 332. The quantity of refined saltpetre produced during the year was 6,984 maunds against 11,701 maunds in the previous year. This decrease was due to a reduced demand for saltpetre in consequence of the cessation of the war. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement was 275 maunds, as compared with 547 maunds in 1918-19.

Paper. 333. There were three paper mills at work during the year 1919-20, employing 4,479 persons daily. These mills produced 25,070 tons of paper, valued at Rs. 1,83,96,071, during the year 1919-20.

Silk. 334. There were 18 silk mills and some smaller establishments, which employed 5,965 and 12,274 persons, respectively. About 20,123 *kahons* of disease-free seed cocoons were distributed from the Government nurseries.

Sugar. 335. The acreage under sugar crops increased from 266,100 to 274,200 in 1919-20. The Cossipore Sugar Works, which is the only regular sugar factory in the province, employed on an average 764 persons daily. Besides this factory, there were 4 smaller sugar concerns at work in the 24-Parganas district, 2 in Calcutta and 3 in Jessore, which gave employment to 261 persons daily.

Wool. 336. Two woollen mills were at work during the year 1919-20, employing 318 persons daily. The number of looms and spindles was 28 and 1,448, respectively. These mills produced 491,903 lbs. of blankets, valued roughly at Rs. 5,22,446. One of these factories is Government-owned, and the other a private concern.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Land Revenue Administration Report of Bengal for the year 1919-20].

337. Coal mining in Burdwan prospered, but was hampered by the lack of railway transport; extensive developments are expected in connection with the discovery of extensive areas of coal in the west of Birbhum, which should materially increase the prosperity of the district. **Burdwan.**

338. The engineering firms, the jute and cotton mills in the district of the 24-Parganas had a prosperous year and provided much employment for local labour, and a large number of new mills and factories were erected mainly in the neighbourhood of Calcutta—the tanning industry and production of leather goods being a development of special interest. **Presidency.**

339. The jute-baling industry at Narayanganj, Chandpur, Madaripur and Serajganj prospered, but it was reported not to have recovered the position it had held at the commencement of the war. **Dacca.**

340. Chittagong possesses an industry peculiar to itself—the building of sea-going sailing vessels, and during the year ten such vessels were built and registered, their tonnage varying from 98 to 545 tons. **Chittagong.**

341. The tea industry is confined to the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. While the loss of the Russian market had considerably affected the sale of the finer varieties of tea grown in Darjeeling and reduced the price to little more than that obtained for the coarser varieties, there was a considerable extension of tea cultivation in the Terai and the Duars. The price of tea, however, sank to such a level that the trade could not be considered to be in a prosperous condition; this did not, however, affect the labour employed in the tea gardens. **Rajshahi.**

The most extensive of the Cottage industries of the Province is that of weaving, and it would have been thought that the phenomenal price of Manchester goods would have given an impetus to the industry. This applied, however, only to districts where coarse cloths are woven. In Bankura the weavers were most prosperous and their prosperity was largely due to a rapid extension of Industrial Co-operative Societies. In other districts, such as Burdwan, Hooghly and Dacca, where cloths of a fine variety are woven, the industry was reported to be at a standstill, owing to the exorbitant price of yarn. The silk reeling and weaving industry varied in different parts of the province; in Rajshahi, Bogra, Burdwan and Birbhum the industry declined owing to the high price of materials—in Malda, however, it was in a flourishing state. A similar phenomenon occurred in the brass and bell metal industries in Birbhum, Hooghly, Rajshahi and Malda, the high price of materials militated against the success of the industry; in Midnapore, however, the industry revived. The Naogaon " Ganja "-Co-operative Society, the *hooka*-making industry in Tippera and the sugar industry in Jessore all prospered. The information collected regarding the Cottage industries was not, however, sufficiently precise to enable a true judgment to be formed of the condition of the industries. The outstanding feature of the year, however, was the remarkable development due to the extension of Co-operative Societies for manufacture as in Bankura, and for sale as at Khepupara in the Bakarganj Sunderbans.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1919. Statistics of British India, Part I—Industries.]

342. The number of factories at the close of the year 1919 was 614 against 570 in 1918, the number of new factories brought under the operation of the Act during the year being 57 as against 52 in the preceding year. The daily average number of operatives employed during the year was 446,541 as compared with 439,961 in 1918. **Number of factories.**

There was an appreciable increase in the number employed in jute and cotton mills, jute presses, dock-yards, railways and engineering works, rice-mills, kerosine tinning factories and iron and brass foundries, but, on the other hand, a considerable decrease was noticed in the number of employees in arms and ammunition factories, tanneries, rope-works and canvas water-proofing factories.

System of work.

343. In 85 factories work was carried on by means of shifts and in 219 with stoppages after intervals of six hours, one hundred and seven factories were exempted under Part C, Schedule I of the Act, in 188 factories other arrangements were in force. Fifteen factories remained closed during the year.

Inspection.

344. The Factory Inspectors were relieved about the end of February 1919 of the special work on which they were engaged during the war in connection with the grant of priority certificates in respect of articles required from the United Kingdom. They were able to devote their whole time to regular inspection duty. In all 494 factories were inspected by them during the year, two hundred and ninety-three of which were inspected once, 100 factories twice, 39 factories three times and 62 factories more than three times.

Sanitary and housing arrangements, water-supply, etc.

345. Sanitary improvements in factories received the special attention of the Inspecting staff during the year and steps were taken for the gradual substitution of improved latrines of standard pattern for the old hand-service latrines of faulty construction. A modern system of connected latrines was installed at the Lawrence Jute mill, while a sewerage system was completed in the Gouripore Mill. Seven new septic tank installations were brought into operation during the year. The Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal and the Inspector of Septic Tank Installations were appointed in May 1919 to be Additional Inspectors under the Factories Act. This measure, it is hoped, will ensure proper attention being paid to the working of septic tank installations so as to secure the best results. The water supplied during the year to the factory operatives was generally pure and sufficient. While the employers have been trying to improve sanitary conditions within the factories they have not overlooked the question of improving the house accommodation for their workmen. Large sums of money were spent by the textile factories in providing well-built pucca houses for their operatives. Facilities provided in one mill for the amusement of children were greatly appreciated.

General condition of operatives and wages.

346. A steady progress was noticeable in the general welfare of the workers during the year 1919, which revealed on the whole a satisfactory state of affairs and a commendable effort on the part of the employers and the inspecting staff to maintain a progressive policy for the betterment of the conditions of labour. In addition to the increase of 10 per cent. war bonus granted in 1918, a further general increase of 10 per cent. was given in November 1919 to all operatives of textile factories, and since then, on account of the high cost of living, an additional increase of 20 per cent. was granted, making a total increase of 40 per cent. The workmen in the principal railway and engineering works were granted an increase of 15 to 35 per cent.

General health of operatives.

347. Cases of pneumonia and beri-beri, resulting in a shortage of labour, were reported from some of the engineering firms in Howrah. Malaria and influenza occurred in a number of the textile factories, but, owing to the adoption of special preventive measures, the latter did not assume an epidemic form. There was an outbreak of small-pox in 24 textile factories, but everything possible was done to check the spread of the disease. Arrangements have been made in some of the mills and the local Ordnance Factories for the investigation and treatment of hookworm disease, and a distinct physical improvement was noticed in those who went through the course of treatment.

Accidents

348. The number of accidents in Bengal fell from 1,418 in 1918 to 1,138 during 1919. This was a satisfactory reduction, especially as the number of operatives increased by nearly 6,500. Further improvement in

the fencing of machinery and safety appliances is, however, necessary and the matter is receiving the special attention of the Inspecting staff.

Fire.

349. Only one case of fire of an insignificant nature was reported during the year.

Employment of women and children.

350. There was an increase of 3,148 in the number of women and children employed, mostly in jute mills and brass foundries, as compared with the previous year. The number of children certified during the year was 21,757 as against 21,414 in 1918. Prosecutions were instituted in six cases for irregular employment of children, all of which resulted in conviction.

Sunday Labour.

351. Two anonymous complaints were received in the Factory Inspection Department, one with regard to the working of a factory on Sundays, and the other for not giving the half-hour's interval as required by the Act. Surprise visits were made and necessary action was taken.

Strikes.

352. Seven strikes of a temporary nature were reported during the year.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1919-20. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. Statistics of British India, Volume I—Commercial Statistics. Review of the Trade of India, 1919-20.]

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1919-20.]

Total Trade. (Merchandise, private and Government.)

353. In the year under review, the aggregate value of the trade of the Bengal Presidency, both foreign and coasting, reached a total beyond all precedent, being Rs. 2,69 crores, which represents an improvement of 30 per cent. on the previous year's figures. The value of the foreign trade increased by Rs. 52 crores or 29 per cent. to Rs. 2,31 crores, and that of the coasting trade by Rs. 10 crores or 35 per cent. to Rs. 38 crores. The foreign import trade advanced by 25 per cent. to Rs. 90 crores and exports, by 32 per cent. to Rs. 1,41 crores. Calcutta, as usual, absorbed 97 per cent. of the total foreign trade of Bengal, the remainder consisting chiefly of tea and raw jute exported from Chittagong.

Merchandise (private).

354. The following table shows the extent to which the foreign trade in merchandise (private) of the province is centred in the chief port of Calcutta:—

Imports and exports of the merchandise (private) in 1919-20.

	Province. (In thousands.)	Calcutta. (In thousands.)	Chittagong and its sub-ports. (In thousands.)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	83,78,18	83,26,01	52,17
Exports	1,39,73,95	1,34,18,88	5,55,07

Treasure.

355. The imports of gold, both on private and on Government account, were valued at Rs. 10 crores against over Rs. 2 crores in 1918-19. The main source of supply was the United States. The imports of silver on private and Government account were Rs. 17 crores against Rs. 39½ crores in the preceding year. The private imports of silver were on a very small scale, Rs. 2 lakhs in all, while the imports on Government account amounted to Rs. 16,94 lakhs to meet the demand for coinage. Exports of gold and silver were inconsiderable.

Imports of merchandise.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta.

356. The following table shows the comparative importance of the staple articles in the import trade of Calcutta:—

	Average value for the 5 years 1912-1913 to 1916-1917.	1917-1918.	1918-1919.	1919-1920.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.	Difference between 1918-1919 and 1919-1920.	
						Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton goods	25,48,05,578	25,27,08,926	23,47,15,010	28,21,29,876	33·89	4,74,14,866	...
Sugar	6,16,26,091	7,17,93,818	7,44,39,783	11,02,99,099	13·25	3,57,99,316	...
Metals and ores	6,28,25,008	4,71,69,144	8,50,10,237	10,61,51,546	12·75	2,11,41,309	...
Machinery and millwork	2,42,33,457	1,95,59,381	2,15,50,233	5,08,17,902	6·10	2,92,67,669	...
Oils	1,97,96,525	1,59,95,544	1,98,56,474	3,62,41,776	4·35	1,63,85,302	...
Railway plant and rolling stock	2,39,71,388	21,73,201	42,87,100	2,48,62,664	2·99	2,05,75,564	...
Salt	92,33,190	1,87,57,829	1,87,92,285	1,78,87,037	2·15	...	9,05,248
Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplated ware.	1,13,76,175	1,11,03,376	1,37,46,448	1,70,70,665	2·05	33,24,217	...
Motor cars and motor cycles and parts thereof.	49,09,554	35,05,934	12,42,537	1,41,78,362	1·72	1,29,35,825	...
Instruments, apparatus and appliances.	63,01,840	66,04,407	90,06,748	1,04,82,543	1·25	14,75,795	...
Liquors, including methylated and perfumed spirits.	64,26,006	75,94,343	1,19,39,348	1,04,57,307	1·25	...	14,82,041
Provisions and oilman's stores ...	64,36,744	58,60,656	75,42,206	1,00,55,224	1·21	25,13,018	...
Spices	71,44,533	70,26,045	93,36,745	94,08,472	1·13	71,727	...
Rubber	27,78,543	48,24,458	48,90,153	77,33,523	·93	28,43,370	...
Chemicals and chemical preparations.	49,08,253	98,33,800	1,09,35,277	75,62,222	·91	...	33,73,055
Paper and paste-board	47,10,089	72,55,041	84,11,651	70,43,298	·85	...	13,68,353
Copra or coconut kernel	76,386	19,41,708	78,79,071	69,41,261	·83	...	9,37,810
Articles imported by post ...	31,85,703	45,59,764	69,23,085	67,56,950	·81	...	1,66,135
Glass and glassware	50,54,390	56,20,747	42,74,082	64,13,428	·77	21,39,346	...
Tobacco	30,26,923	53,17,831	73,59,431	62,48,508	·75	...	11,40,923
Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics).	43,12,622	41,63,334	45,81,438	58,41,849	·70	12,60,411	...

The important imports are separately dealt with in the sub-joined paragraphs:—

Cotton manufactures.

357. The quantity of piece-goods imported was nearly 585 million yards, at an average price of 7 annas a yard, as compared with 512 million yards at 6½ annas a yard in the previous year. Grey goods were, as usual, the most important item and were imported to the extent of 424 million yards, 94 per cent. of the total quantity coming from the United Kingdom: as to the balance, the share of Japan fell from 67 to 24 million yards, while the quantity imported from the United States of America was only 380,000 yards. A similar decline in Japanese supplies occurred in respect of white and coloured piece-goods from 5½ to 16 million yards in the former case and from 8 to 4½ million yards in the latter. Holland reappeared in the trade with 1 million yards of white and 600,000 yards of coloured goods. The imports of hosiery, which nearly doubled in value to a total of Rs. 93·5 lakhs, came chiefly from Japan.

There was a large decrease in the imports of cotton twist and yarn from over 8½ million lbs. to less than 4 million lbs.

Sugar.

358. The imports of refined sugar declined by 48,000 tons to 210,000 tons. Imports from Java declined from 252,000 tons in 1918-19 to 202,000 tons in 1919-20, while the supplies from Mauritius increased by 1,900 tons to 8,400 tons. The imports from other countries were negligible. In the earlier part of the year an unusual export trade sprang up, nearly 33,000 tons of imported sugar being re-exported, of which 11,800 tons went to the United Kingdom and 12,000 tons to Belgium. The average market price for Java refined sugar was Rs. 24-5 per cwt., as against Rs. 13-15 in the previous year. The imports of molasses (nearly all from Java) recovered to 56,500 tons, from 18,600 tons in the previous year.

Metals and manufactures thereof.

359. Imports of metals showed a remarkable recovery in quantity from 107,500 tons in 1918-19 to 230,400 tons in 1919-20. The average values were on a much lower level, and this accounted for the fact that while the total quantity of iron and steel imported (211,200 tons) more than doubled, the value of these imports increased by 24 per cent. only to Rs. 8,13 lakhs. Imports of brass (unwrought and wrought) and copper (unwrought) were on an unprecedental scale, while imports of zinc, though less than in 1918-19,

were much bigger than in former years. The quantity of wrought copper imported was larger than in 1918-19, though much below the pre-war average. Wrought iron and steel, which is the most important item in the metal trade, was imported to the extent of 209,500 tons, as against 93,500 tons in the preceding years, the recovery being most prominent in the case of galvanised sheets and plates and in beams and pillars, etc. Of the total quantity of wrought iron and steel, 68 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, as against 32 per cent. in 1918-19, and 27 per cent. from the United States, and 1 per cent. from Japan, as against 53 per cent. and 12 per cent. respectively, in the previous year.

Machinery and mill-work.

360. Imports of machinery and mill-work increased in value from Rs. 2,15 lakhs to Rs. 5,08 lakhs, a total more than twice the average total before the war. Considerable allowances have, however, to be made for the rise in prices. Three-fifths of the total imports came from the United Kingdom. The chief items were jute mill machinery Rs. 1,48 lakhs, electrical machinery Rs. 78 lakhs, prime movers Rs. 34 lakhs, boilers Rs. 35 lakhs, and tea machinery Rs. 20 lakhs.

Mineral oil.

361. There was a remarkable recovery in the imports of kerosine oil from abroad, which increased by 34 million gallons to nearly 38 million gallons. Twenty-two million gallons came from Borneo and 14½ million gallons from the United States. The coastwise imports from Burma, on the other hand, decreased by 16 million gallons to 40 million gallons. Imports of lubricating and batching oils, both foreign and coasting, showed an appreciable decrease. Fuel oil rose from 4½ million gallons in the previous year to 7½ million gallons. There were practically no importations of foreign benzine and petrol, but imports from Burma rose from 1 to 3 million gallons.

Railway plant and rolling stock.

362. Imports on private account rose in value from Rs. 43 lakhs to Rs. 2,48 lakhs, while imports on Government account also showed a similar advance from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 335 lakhs. Of the combined total (nearly Rs. 6 crores), about five-sixths represented carriages and waggons. A new feature of the trade was that nearly half the total came from the United States.

Salt.

363. The total imports were 385,800 tons, an increase of 43,000 tons over last year's figures. Port Said, which supplied the largest quantity, reduced her exports by 45,000 tons to 109,000 tons. There were increased imports from all the other principal sources of supply. Practically during the whole year, the maximum price fixed by Government ruled; from January 1920 this was reduced by Rs. 30 per 100 maunds.

Hardware and cutlery.

364. Imports advanced in value from Rs. 1,44 lakhs in 1918-19 to Rs. 1,86 lakhs in 1919-20. Both the United States of America and the United Kingdom increased their share of the trade, while that of Japan showed a decline by Rs. 8 lakhs.

Liquors.

365. The total imports of liquors increased from 1,402,000 gallons to 1,605,000 gallons or 14 per cent., but the value decreased by 13 per cent. from Rs. 1,19 lakhs to Rs. 1,04 lakhs. The imports of beer from the United Kingdom increased to 233,700 gallons and those from Japan rose to 475,400 gallons. The United States and Holland also increased their supplies. The quantity of brandy imported decreased to 46,000 gallons from 77,000 gallons in the preceding year, mainly due to the reduced shipments from France. Imports of whisky (189,000 gallons) were almost on the same level as last year, but the value of these imports decreased to Rs. 28 lakhs from Rs. 39 lakhs. Imports from other countries were comparatively negligible. Java rum was imported to the extent of 318,400 gallons. Wines showed an advance from 74,500 gallons in 1918-19 to 114,500 gallons, the most marked increase being in the case of champagne and port. Imports of French vermouth showed a good recovery, which accounted for the reduction in the quantity imported from Spain.

Motor Cars, Cycles and Parts.

366. With the removal of the embargo on the import there was a remarkable recovery in the trade. The value of motor cars, cycles and parts

rose from Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 1,42 lakhs. No less than 3,452 motor cars were imported as against only 55 cars in the preceding year.

Exports of merchandise.

Foreign trade.

367. The following table shows the values of the staple articles of the export trade of Calcutta and their comparative importance:—

	Average for the 5 years, 1912-1913 to 1916-1917.	1917-1918.	1918-1919.	1919-1920.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1918-1919 AND 1919-1920.	
						Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute manufactures	31,22,83,698	42,68,57,646	52,49,32,003	49,82,28,096	37·78	...	2,67,03,907
Jute, raw	18,91,62,725	6,24,47,258	11,84,48,474	22,68,91,552	17·20	10,84,43,078	...
Tea	11,43,72,726	13,13,86,546	11,85,16,874	14,24,48,927	10·80	2,39,32,053	...
Hides and skins, raw	7,01,85,655	3,48,03,066	3,91,70,877	13,57,13,452	10·29	9,65,42,575	...
Lac	2,01,57,693	3,74,54,008	2,84,60,126	7,22,10,576	5·48	4,37,50,450	...
Seeds	2,95,60,238	96,98,046	3,21,67,354	6,17,86,993	4·69	2,96,19,639	...
Cotton, raw	1,28,96,030	82,97,355	71,43,594	3,46,11,567	2·62	2,74,67,973	...
Opium	2,60,79,301	2,40,77,345	3,12,90,745	1,96,02,620	1·49	...	1,16,88,125
Grain, pulse and flour	4,91,64,113	1,92,16,034	3,20,98,235	1,59,97,191	1·21	...	1,61,01,044
Hemp, raw	53,74,785	25,00,642	56,67,781	1,06,83,033	·81	50,15,252	...
Cotton twist and yarn	17,04,637	27,32,339	8,71,946	1,05,99,972	·80	97,28,027	...
Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	71,79,413	23,52,022	15,45,810	80,82,198	·61	65,36,588	...
Metals and Ores	68,57,589	76,87,579	1,05,63,083	78,60,575	·60	...	27,02,508
Mica	34,78,463	78,22,994	79,85,755	75,30,112	·57	...	4,55,643
Indigo	58,51,996	94,30,865	74,24,938	72,52,031	·55	...	1,72,907
Oils	24,73,997	57,84,473	1,34,74,319	69,99,097	·53	...	64,75,222
Articles (not specified) exported by post.	10,60,625	26,60,876	35,51,224	62,89,962	·48	27,38,738	...
Dyeing and tanning substances—other than indigo.	27,04,826	25,69,617	32,00,595	59,74,087	·45	27,73,492	...
Manures	25,82,897	23,23,359	27,16,356	58,56,126	·44	31,39,770	...
Saltpetre	45,80,188	64,62,174	76,15,029	48,70,018	·37	...	27,45,011

The total export trade exhibited an increase in value of 31 per cent. over the previous year and amounted to Rs. 1,34 crores.

The more important exports are especially noticed in the following paragraphs:—

Raw Jute and Jute manufactures.

368. The two principal characteristics of the year's trade in jute were (1) the great increase in the exports of raw jute on account of the reviving activity of industries in European countries, and (2) a decline in shipments of manufactured goods owing to the cessation of supplies to the British War Office consequent on the end of hostilities. The exports of raw jute from Calcutta by sea showed a marked recovery of 45 per cent., from 2,105,000 bales to 3,069,000 bales. The value increased by 91 per cent. to nearly Rs. 23 crores. Chittagong exported 318,400 bales chiefly to the United Kingdom. If this be added to the Calcutta figure, the exports from the Presidency total 3,387,000 bales against 2,216,000 bales in 1918-19. The leading customer, the United Kingdom, received 407,000 bales more from Calcutta than in 1918-19; there was also a great recovery in the exports to France, Spain, Italy, and Belgium, which together took 863,700 bales. Shipments to Brazil, which had been very heavy in the four previous years, fell off slightly and amounted to 85,300 bales. The Jute Cess Collections made over to the Calcutta Improvement Trust amounted to Rs. 8,56,000, as compared with Rs. 8,08,000 in 1918-19.

Shipments of gunny bags declined from 581 millions, valued at Rs. 22,21 lakhs, to 340 millions, valued at Rs. 18,41 lakhs, in the year under report, while the exports of gunny cloth increased from 1,102 million yards, valued at Rs. 29,67 lakhs, to 1,275 million yards, valued at Rs. 31,14 lakhs. Contracts for bags and cloth on Government account, which formed a large proportion of the trade in war years, were brought to a close in 1919-20 with the shipments of 988,000 bags, valued at Rs. 1,23,360, all to the United Kingdom. This accounted for the decrease in the exports of bags to the United Kingdom, which amounted to 58 millions in number, as against 135 millions in 1918-19. There were no shipments of gunny cloth on Government account. The salient feature of the year's trade is the expansion in

the exports of cloth to the United States and the Argentine, which have long been the principal markets for this article. Shipments to Canada and Australasia were on a smaller scale than in recent years.

Tea.

369. Tea was released from control by the British Government at the end of March 1919, and, as a result, the total quanity of tea exported increased by 44 million lbs. or 19 per cent. to 269 million lbs. and the value increased by 20 per cent. to Rs. 14,25 lakhs. The expansion of exports from Calcutta was largely due to heavier shipments to the United Kingdom, which constituted 88 per cent. of the whole. The shipments from Chittagong were 72 million lbs.—a record figure—and the total exports from the Presidency of Bengal to foreign ports aggregated 341 million lbs., as compared with 280 million lbs. in the previous year. Exports to countries other than the United Kingdom recovered from 23 to 33 million lbs., but with the important Russian market still practically closed remained far below the pre-war level. The exports to North American countries showed a satisfactory advance, Canada taking 8 million lbs. and the United States 6 million lbs., as against nearly 1 million lbs. and 2 million lbs., respectively, in 1918-19. Shipments of tea waste were on a very large scale, amounting to nearly 8 million lbs., with a value of Rs. 14½ lakhs; of this 92 per cent. went to the United States. The average price realised in Calcutta at the auction sales during the year was the same as that obtained for 1918-19, namely, 8 annas 1 pie per lb.

Hides and skins, raw.

370. The total quantity of raw hides exported was 688,500 cwts., of which 153,200 cwts were buffalo hides, 523,400 cwts, cow hides and 11,900 cwts, calf skins. The United States was the principal customer, accounting for about one-half by weight of the exports, the United Kingdom came next with nearly a quarter, and Italy third with about one-eighth of the total. Germany and Austria, which before the war used to do more than half the business, reappeared in the market with small purchases. Shipments of raw skins were remarkably large, far in excess of the pre-war average, and amounted to 301,000 cwts., as against 189,000 cwts., in the previous year, while the values of these exports also showed a big advance; 96 per cent. of the skins were goat skins. The United States was the principal customer, with France, as usual, taking the second place. There was some recovery in the exports of skins to the United Kingdom, which had declined considerably during the war. There was a great advance in the exports of dressed hides and skins, which reached a value of Rs. 20 lakhs. The trade under this head hardly existed before the war. On the 11th September 1919, a duty of 15 per cent., based on tariff values, was imposed on exported raw hides and skins, a rebate of two-thirds being granted under certain conditions on shipments to destinations within the British Empire. Shipments of raw hides and skins made in pursuance of contracts entered into before the date of the imposition of the export duty were also exempted from duty.

Lac.

371. The exports of lac increased from 231,500 cwts. to 373,500 cwts. Shellac and button lac constituted the bulk of the trade, absorbing 94 per cent. There was a phenomenal rise in prices and the value of the exports increased from Rs. 2,85 lakhs to Rs. 7,22 lakhs. The United States was the principal customer of button and shellac, with 228,800 cwts.

Seeds.

372. The year's trade in oil-seeds was of special interest. The total quantity exported amounted to 151,000 tons, valued at Rs. 6,10 lakhs against 143,000 tons, valued at Rs. 3,16 lakhs, in the preceding year. Shipments of linseed showed a small increase, from 125,300 tons to 135,200 tons, the bulk of the trade went as usual to the United Kingdom (95,900 tons). France and Belgium reappeared as large importers, while shipments to Australia decreased. There were no exports to the United States. Exports of rapeseed declined by 69 per cent. to 2,900 tons. Japan disappeared from the market after two years of unusually large shipments. The great decrease in the exports of castor seed, from 4,500 tons to 1,000 tons, was due to the cessation of the demand from the United Kingdom. Three thousand five hundred tons of poppy seed, 1,200 tons of tilseed, and 3,800 tons of groundnuts were exported during the year.

Cotton, raw.

373. The port of Calcutta shared, though on a relatively small scale, in the great increase in exports of Indian raw cotton, which increased from 4,700 tons in 1918-19 to 25,000 tons. By far the largest trade was shared by Japan, with 19,300 tons, the second place being held by the United States of America.

Cotton twist and yarn.

374. The total quantity exported was 8,043,000 lbs., against 756,000 lbs. in the preceding year. China (Hongkong and the Treaty ports) recovered its position as the principal customer, with a total of 7 million lbs.

Opium.

375. Private shipments amounted to 6,247 chests and showed a decline of 4,220 chests, while Government shipments, the bulk of which went to the Straits Settlements, were reduced from 4,411 to 4,212 chests. Cochin-China took considerably less, only 995 chests against 3,440 chests in 1918-19. Exports to Japan were very nearly normal (980 chests), as against the large shipments recorded last year.

Grain, pulse and flour.

376. Despite a better harvest in 1919-20, the country had not recovered from the effects of the disastrous failure of crops in the previous year and strict control was maintained over the trade. Exports by sea were practically confined to Asiatic Turkey and to British Possessions, which contained a population of Indian settlers and amounted to 72,000 tons, as against 206,000 tons in 1918-19. The principal customer was as usual Ceylon, which took 19,000 tons of rice and 7,000 tons of pulse and gram from Calcutta. Exports of wheat were confined to the requirements of Indian troops in Hongkong and the limited shipments of wheat-flour were divided between Ceylon and the Straits Settlements.

Hemp, raw.

377. Shipments during the year amounted to 494,400 cwts., a considerably larger total than any previously recorded even before the war. Exports to the United Kingdom advanced from 178,800 cwts. to 306,100 cwts., while Belgium and France took 77,100 cwts. and 69,300 cwts., respectively. Shipments to the United States, on the other hand, declined from 39,500 cwts. to 14,700 cwts.

Coal.

378. The total quantity of coal exported abroad from Calcutta on private account amounted to 672,800 tons against 143,900 tons in 1918-19. These figures include only shipments on private account permitted by the Mining Engineer, but not shipments arranged by him on Government vessels and hired transports, which amounted to nearly 900,000 tons in 1918-19 and 364,400 tons in the ten months, April 1919 to January 1920, for which the information is available. Ceylon was the principal customer, with 426,400 tons, and the Straits Settlements came next, with 120,500 tons. Coastwise shipments recovered to 213,300 tons from 101,300 tons.

Metals and ores.

379. The total value of metals and ores exported decreased from Rs. 1,06 lakhs to Rs. 79 lakhs. With the reduction in demands for munition work in the United Kingdom and France, shipments of manganese ore contracted in quantity from 204,900 tons to 127,900 tons. Exports of pig-iron made a marked recovery from 9,600 tons to 41,700 tons. As in the previous year almost the entire quantity went to Japan. Shipments of manufactures of iron and steel were somewhat better than in the previous year, namely, 880 tons against 720 tons. Heavier shipments of brass and copper manufactures (other metals) yielded a total value of Rs. 6 lakhs, as compared with last year's figures of 3 lakhs.

Mica.

380. The quantity exported showed a small increase from 46,000 cwts. (all to the United Kingdom) to 50,200 cwts., the United Kingdom taking 41,500 cwts. and the United states 7,200 cwts.

Indigo.

381. Shipments of indigo from Calcutta declined from 18,000 cwts. to 15,700 cwts. or by 13 per cent. Japan took the largest quantity (nearly 12,000 cwts), while the United Kingdom took 1,200 cwts., as against 4,000 cwts. There were no exports to the United States, which received 7,200 cwts. in the previous year. Turkey in Asia considerably increased her demands. Prices ruled on a higher level, with the consequence that the decline in the total value of shipments was only 2 per cent.

382. The following table shows the distribution of the Import and Export trade of Calcutta :—

	IMPORTS.						EXPORTS.					
	Average for the five years (1912-13 to 1916-17).		1918-19.		1919-20.		Average for the five years (1912-13 to 1916-17).		1918-19.		1919-20.	
	Rs. (lakhs.)	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs.)	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs.)	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs.)	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs.)	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs.)	Per cent.
United Kingdom	4,116	69·5	2,883	45·3	4,635	55·7	2,676	30·1	2,718	26·6	4,154	31·0
British Possessions	253	4·3	549	8·6	549	6·6	1,305	14·7	1,912	18·6	1,281	10·3
United States	228	3·8	828	13·0	1,088	13·1	1,798	20·2	2,909	28·4	3,961	29·5
Japan	213	3·6	1,139	17·9	565	6·8	199	2·3	343	3·4	650	4·8
Java	571	9·8	740	11·6	1,079	13·0	135	1·5	243	2·4	178	1·3
Italy	49	·8	11	·2	98	·3	266	3·0	201	2·0	201	1·5
France	32	·6	34	·5	33	·4	305	3·4	437	4·3	693	5·2
Belgium	55	·9	...	...	27	·3	58	·7	1	...	318	2·4
South America	...	...	...	...	4	...	437	4·9	682	6·7	858	6·4
Total including other Countries.	5,920	100	6,362	100	8,326	100	8,884	100	10,236	100	13,419	100

The total trade of Calcutta with the United Kingdom advanced from Rs. 56 crores to Rs. 88 crores and her share in the grand total increased from 34 to 40 per cent. Her share in the import trade rose from 45 per cent. to 56 per cent. The chief items were cotton goods, metals and machinery (the value of her contribution of cotton goods rising from Rs. 18 crores to Rs. 25 crores, of metals from Rs. 2 crores to 7 crores, and of machinery from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crores). In the export trade also the United Kingdom had the first place, her share being 31 per cent, as compared with America's share of 29½ per cent. Increases of nearly Rs. 6 crores were recorded in the case of raw jute, of Rs. 2 crores each in jute manufactures and tea, and of over a crore each in respect of oilseeds and lac. The only trade showing a noticeable decline was saltpetre, due to the cessation of the munitions demand. Australia improved her position in the import trade on account of large purchases of wheat, amounting to over Rs. 50 lakhs, while a sharp contraction in shipments of jute manufactures and smaller exports of saltpetre, linseed and lac reduced the value of the export trade. The Straits Settlements had the largest import trade of the British Possessions, owing to increases under lac, mineral oil, grain and pulse, and spices. Of exports, the Straits took more gunny bags, coal and opium. Mauritius sent more sugar but Egypt less salt. The recovery in the total trade with foreign countries in Europe was mainly due to the revival in the imports of iron and steel from Belgium, of motor tyres, cotton goods and instruments from Italy and of tea chest from Russia. France sent more motor cars and motor tyres, but considerably less brandy, while she was the best purchaser with marked increases under raw jute, linseed, poppy seed, raw skins and hemp. Belgium stood second, with a big recovery in her consumption of raw jute, linseed, gunny bags, and raw hemp, and also secured Rs. 45 lakhs worth of foreign sugar from Calcutta. The United States of America more than maintained the striking development recorded in the preceding year. The value of the imports of metals from that country was less by over a crore of rupees, but this deficit was made good by a corresponding increase in the imports of machinery, hardware, kerosine oil, motor cars and tyres. On the export side, the United States was displaced by the United Kingdom from the leading position among Calcutta's customers. Purchases of gunny bags were reduced, but orders for hides and skins and lac were exceptionally heavy and she took larger quantities of raw jute and tea. Java regained her leading position in Calcutta's import trade with Asiatic countries with increased supplies of sugar, while Japan, except for larger sales of glassware and hosiery, lost ground very seriously in all directions, the contraction in her business in cotton goods, metals, tea chests and chemicals being particularly marked. Japan increased her purchases from Calcutta from Rs. 3½ crores to Rs. 6½ crores, chiefly raw cotton, jute manufactures, myrobalans, manures, pig-iron, and raw jute.

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for 1919-20.]

Total trade. 383. The total value of the trade with the adjacent States of Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet in the year ending 31st March 1920, was the highest on record and amounted to Rs. 2,02 lakhs, as against Rs. 1,53 lakhs in 1918-19, an increase of 32 per cent. The figures exclude the movements of treasure, the registration of which was, as usual, somewhat defective.

Imports into Bengal. 384. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal (Rs. 1,54 lakhs), 39 per cent. came from Nepal, 33 per cent. from Sikkim, 26 per cent from Tibet and the balance 2 per cent. from Bhutan. The principal articles of import into Bengal were :—From Nepal animals living (Rs. 17 lakhs), fruits vegetables and nuts (Rs. 39 lakhs), and provisions, chiefly *ghi* (Rs. 2 lakhs), from Sikkim, fruits, vegetables and unts (Rs. 31 lakhs), animals living (Rs. 5 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 6 lakhs), spices (Rs. 4½ lakhs), and provisions (Rs. 2 lakhs); from Tibet, row wool (81,913 maunds, valued at Rs. 31 lakhs), skins of sheep, goats and other small animals (Rs. 5 lakhs), lac (Rs. 1½ lakhs), animals living (Rs. 1 lakh), and yak's tails (Rs. 31,000), and from Bhutan, animals living (Rs. 1 lakh).

Exports from Bengal. 385. Of the total exports (Rs. 48 lakhs), 50 per cent. went to Tibet, 35 per cent. to Sikkim, 13 per cent. to Nepal and 2 per cent. to Bhutan. The exports from Bengal to Tibet consisted mainly of cotton piece-goods (Rs. 4 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 4 lakhs), silk manufactures (Rs. 3 lakhs), woollen piece-goods (Rs. 2½ lakhs), fruits and nuts (Rs. 1½ lakhs), and precious stones and pearls (Rs. 87,000); to Sikkim, cotton manufactures (Rs. 4 lakhs), provisions (Rs. 4 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 1,63,000), and metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 67,000); and to Nepal, cotton manufactures (Rs. 3,81,000); and salt (Rs. 47,000). The principal commodities exported to Bhutan were cotton piece-goods (Rs. 40,000) and betel-nuts (Rs. 25,000).

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1919-20.]

Coasting trade. 386. The total value of the coasting trade of Bengal, including Government stores, showed a large increase of about Rs. 10 crores, from Rs. 28 crores to Rs. 38 crores due principally to large shipments of rice received from Burma and also owing to better shipping facilities. Imports of private merchandise increased from Rs. 14 crores to Rs 23 crores and exports from Rs. 11 crores to Rs. 13 crores. The total trade of Calcutta with other Indian ports increased from nearly Rs. 22 crores to Rs. 30 crores or by 37 per cent. The total imports into Calcutta advanced from Rs. 12 crores to Rs. 19 crores, due chiefly to large imports of rice from Burma, which showed an advance of Rs. 4 crores. Other items which registered an increase were cotton goods from Bombay, from Rs. 72 lakhs to Rs. 2,58 lakhs, lack and spices from Burma, from Rs. 15½ lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 51½ lakhs and Rs. 12 lakhs, respectively; and foreign cotton piece-goods, specially coloured goods, from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 52 lakhs; and groundnuts from Madras, from Rs. 27 lakhs to Rs. 57 lakhs. There was a considerable contraction in the supplies of petroleoum from Burma from 63 million gallons to 47 million gallons, and of raw cotton from Rs. 78 lakhs to Rs. 16 lakhs. The total export trade advanced from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 11 crores, shipments to Madras rising by Rs. 74 lakhs to Rs. 1,82 lakhs, to Bombay by Rs. 23 lakhs to Rs. 48 lakhs, and to Burma by Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 8,34 crores. The higher value of the trade was chiefly due to abnormal shipments of foreign sugar, Indian cotton twist and yarn and grain and pulse, which expanded from Rs. 7 lakhs, Rs. 85 lakhs, and Rs. 1,37 lakhs to Rs. 77 lakhs, Rs. 1,32 lakhs, and Rs. 1,83 lakhs respectively. Burma took nearly all the country twist and yarn, while Madras, on account of the scarcity prevailing in that Presidency, had the largest share in the exports of grain and pulse and more than a half of sugar. Exports of jute manufactures dropped from Rs. 2,41 lakhs, to Rs. 2,24 lakhs, while coastwise shipments of coal and coke increased from 103,700 tons to 214,500 tons.

IV.—TRADE BY RAIL AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by rail and river in Bengal during 1919-20.]

387. The quantity and value of the inland trade of Bengal are exhibited in the following table :— **Rail and river-borne trade.**

	1913-14 (Pre-war year.)		1918-19.		1919-20.	
	Mds. (1,000)	Rs. (1,000)	Mds. (1,000)	Rs. (1,000)	Mds. (1,000)	Rs. (1,000)
Imports into Bengal including Calcutta from other provinces	196,102	58,28,18	151,715	86,59,21	157,789	89,64,34
Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal	135,852	59,28,04	108,689	82,57,31	108,142	79,26,56
Exports from Bengal including Calcutta to other provinces ...	66,138	49,72,48	119,960	94,58,49	105,157	91,65 32
Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal	41,519	40,26,96	29,941	46,23,81	31,906	50,92,61

The total imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces were valued at Rs. 89 crores, of which 35 per cent. came from Bihar and Orissa, 21 per cent. from the United Provinces, 19 per cent. from Assam, 9 per cent. from Bombay, 6 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 5 per cent. from Madras, 3 per cent. from the Punjab, and the balance (2 per cent.) from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 91 crores), 32 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 20 per cent. to the United Provinces, 12 per cent. to the Punjab, 11 per cent. to Assam, 9 per cent. to the Bombay Presidency, 5 per cent. each to the Central Provinces and the Madras Presidency, 2 per cent. to Sind and British Baluchistan and the remainder (4 per cent.) to other provinces.

388. The principal articles of import into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces, were from Bihar and Orissa, railway materials (Rs. 6, 73 lakhs), oilseeds, chiefly linseed (Rs. 3,92 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 3,80 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 300 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly gram and pulse and wheat (Rs. 1,95 lakhs), lac (Rs. 1,97 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 1,81 lakhs), tobacco, chiefly raw (Rs. 97 lakhs), jute (Rs. 80 lakhs), *ghi* (Rs. 53 lakhs), hemp (Rs. 51 lakhs), spices, chiefly chillies (Rs. 43 lakhs), oils and saltpetre (Rs. 35 lakhs each) and metallic ores and sugar (Rs. 33 lakhs each); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, hides and skins (Rs. 3,54 lakhs), oil-seeds (Rs. 3,45 lakhs), lac (Rs. 2,55 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly wheat (Rs. 2,26 lakhs), opium (Rs. 2,03 lakhs), *ghi* (Rs. 66 lakhs), cotton, raw (Rs. 45 lakhs), hemp (Rs. 42 lakhs), and saltpetre (Rs. 22 lakhs); from Assam, tea (Rs. 10,66 lakhs); grain and pulse, chiefly paddy (Rs. 1,50 lakhs), jute (Rs. 1,20 lakhs), timber (Rs. 54 lakhs), oils, chiefly kerosine (Rs. 53 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 50 lakhs) and cotton, raw, and lac (Rs. 34 lakhs each); from the Bombay Presidency, including port, cotton manufactures (Rs. 7,01 lakhs), cotton, raw (Rs. 28 lakhs), wool manufactures (Rs. 14 lakhs), and oil-seeds (Rs. 12 lakhs); from the Madras Presidency, including ports, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1,61 lakhs), oil-seeds, chiefly groundnuts, (Rs. 74 lakhs), spices, chiefly pepper (Rs. 72 lakhs), and oils (Rs. 32 lakhs); from the Punjab, grain and pulse, chiefly wheat (Rs. 78 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 56 lakhs), cotton, raw (Rs. 35 lakhs), and oil-seeds, chiefly rape and mustard seed (Rs. 28 lakhs); and from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton, raw (Rs. 3,30 lakhs), cotton manufactures (Rs. 40 lakhs), and metallic ores (Rs. 21 lakhs). **Imports by rail and river into Bengal.**

389. The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Bihar and Orissa comprised mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 10,29 lakhs), grain and **Exports by rail and river from Bengal.**

pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 467 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 3,51 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 1, 63 lakhs), oils, chiefly kerosine (Rs. 1,42 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 98 lakhs), salt (Rs. 82 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 76 lakhs), spices (Rs. 68 lakhs), timber (Rs. 56 lakhs), lac (Rs. 45 lakhs), and non-intoxicating drugs (Rs. 27 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 4,86 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 2,61 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 2,29 lakhs), sugar, chiefly refined (Rs. 2,07 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 1,27 lakhs), oil, chiefly kerosine (Rs. 1,10 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 77 lakhs), spices, chiefly betel-nuts (Rs. 45 lakhs), and coal and coke (Rs. 31 lakhs); to Bombay Presidency, including port, coal and coke (Rs. 1,88 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 1,23 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 1,02 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 80 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 70 lakhs), and tea, Indian (Rs. 59 lakhs); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 3,10 lakhs), sugar, chiefly refined (Rs. 1,98 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 1,70 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 1,34 lakhs), and grain and pulse (Rs. 39 lakhs); to Assam, cotton manufactures (Rs. 3,63 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 1,34 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 91 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 49 lakhs), spices (Rs. 30 lakhs), and salt (Rs. 29 lakhs); to the Central Provinces and Berar, grain and pulse chiefly rice (Rs. 1,87 lakhs), sugar, chiefly refined (Rs. 60 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs 50 lakhs) cotton manufactures (Rs. 35 lakhs), kerosine oil (Rs. 29 lakhs), and iron and steel (Rs. 22 lakhs); and to the Madras Presidency, including ports, iron and steel (Rs. 72 lakhs), and hides and skins (Rs. 33 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Re-transfer of Sanitary Engineer and his staff to General Department.

390. Prior to 1899 the appointment and establishment of the Sanitary Engineer to this Government were under the control of the General Department and the cost was debited to "24—Medical." As this system was not considered suitable by the Government of India, the Sanitary Engineer and his staff were transferred to the control of the Public Works Department and the cost was debited to "45—Civil Works." Experience, however, showed that the whole management of sanitary matters was highly complex and involved, and to remedy this and to place it on a more efficient basis, the appointment of the Sanitary Engineer and his staff were re-transferred to the General Department.

Revision of system of accounts in Sikkim.

391. In consequence of the difficulty of keeping different sets of account and other causes, it has been considered necessary to consider the revision of the arrangements for the administration of Public Works in Sikkim.

Indian service of Engineers.

392. The scales of pay sanctioned by the Government of India for the members of the Engineer establishment were, after careful consideration, found insufficient. The Government of India, with the approval of His Majesty's Secretary of State, sanctioned in October 1919 senior and junior scales of pay for the Engineers of both the Imperial and Provincial Services. The retention of the two distinctive services of the Engineer officers being found unsuitable in the interests of the public service, these have been amalgamated into one service under the designation of the "Indian Service of Engineers."

Technical and overseas allowances.

393. The time-scale of pay sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State is divided into two scales, junior and senior, each with pay, technical and overseas allowances. The latter two, however, are admissible only to Europe-recruited officers.

Provincial and Subordinate Engineering Services.

394. In addition to the Indian Service of Engineers, the Government of India have, in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Services Commission and the Public Works Reorganisation Committee, sanctioned two other services, viz., the Provincial Engineering and the Subordinate Engineering Services. The former is designated by the name of the province to which it relates, and is therefore in Bengal called the Bengal Engineering

Service. The rate of salary sanctioned by this Government is Rs. 250—20—550—25—750 per mensem, with an efficiency bar at Rs. 550 per mensem. This service is to comprise the bulk of the officers of the Public Works Department qualified for the charge of subdivisions.

With the formation of the new Provincial and Subordinate Engineering Services it has been decided eventually to abolish the existing Upper and Lower Subordinate Services.

Accounts.

395. The total outlay of the year 1919-20 on works (Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvement) amounted to Rs. 1,57,29,901. Of which Rs. 1,03,709 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 53,36,192 by local authorities. Of the expenditure of Rs. 1,03,93,709 incurred by the Public Works Department Rs. 10,25,616 were spent on Imperial Works, Rs. 87,96,712 on Provincial Works and Rs. 5,71,381 on local and contribution works. Accounts.

Buildings.

IMPERIAL CIVIL WORKS.

396. The plot of land repurchased from the Port Commissioners was fenced on the west side, the Library and Reading Room was added to and altered; the roadway from the workshop was paved with stone setts. The Silver Mint Tank was widened and latrines and urinals were constructed at the north end of the existing Refinery shed. Mint.

397. At the General Post Office, Calcutta, a wrought-iron gate and railing with lamps were erected at the south-west corner; a new building on the site of the old arcade building was started and the hall of the Railway Mail Service Sorting office was extended by the construction of a mezza-nine floor over the post boxes. Lavatories were constructed in the compound of the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta. In the Telegraph Store Yard, Alipore, a two-storied building was constructed for the office of the Chief Electrical Engineer; an upper storey over building No. 1/6 for the line staff and a motor cleaning shed in the compound were in progress. Post and Telegraph Offices.

The following works were completed:—

Providing an upper storey in the Post Master's quarters attached to the Post and Telegraph office at Bankura; additions to, and alterations in the quarters of the Post Master at Bankura; constructing a well and raising partition walls in the Postal Superintendent's office at Berhampore; providing a counter railing and iron wall almirah in the Post and Telegraph office at that place. Filling up an insanitary tank by excavating two others in the compound of the Post and Telegraph office at Diamond Harbour; additions to, and alterations in the Post office at Jalpaiguri and the Post and Telegraph office and Post Master's quarters at Pabna; providing overhead racks in the Post office at Rajshahi; construction of a Post and Telegraph office at Darjeeling; extension of the Post office at Rajbari; construction of a Post office with quarters for the Post Master at Cox's Bazar and construction of an engine-room and battery shed for the Telegraph office at Chittagong.

398. The care-taker's quarters and the additional block of servants' quarters were completed. Museum (Calcutta).

399. Belvedere was made the winter residence of His Excellency the Viceroy at Calcutta. A new building, to be subsequently used as staff quarters, was erected for the temporary housing of the Queen Victoria Memorial exhibits. Viceregal Residence.

400. At Jessore, the Press shed, record-room, coach-house and servants' latrine were constructed, and the compound of the Settlement Officer's Settlement Buildings.

quarters was raised. The Settlement buildings at Bankura were completed. The construction of a Press building at Bankura was carried out by the Settlement Officer as Public Works disburser.

Miscellaneous.

401. The work of renewing the pontoon and landing stages at Barrackpore Park was nearly completed and a revetment wall was built round the Park. Construction of a thermometer shed at Kalimpong was completed and errection of the instrument checking standards at that place was in progress.

PROVINCIAL CIVIL BUILDINGS.

Revenue and Judicial Courts.

402. The following works were completed :—

Improvements to the latrines and urinals in the Small Cause Court, Calcutta, and in the Small Cause Court and Police Court, Sealdah; additions to, and alterations in the Magistrate's Court in connection with the formation of Howrah into an independent district in revenue and judicial matters; provision of additional record space at the High Court; additions to, and alterations in the Treasury Guards' House at Rampurhat; alterations in the Collectorate at Bankura, in order to convert the Treasury into a strong room; conversion of a part of the inner verandah of the District Judge's record-room into an office room at Chinsura; construction of a combined Treasury and Guards' House in the Subdivisional Court compound at Lalbagh; construction of an additional verandah on the south side of the Subdivisional residence at Kandi; provision of iron gratings to the two rooms of, and additions to, and alterations in the malkhana attached to the old Collectorate at Midnapore; special repairs to the Munsifis at Danton; improvements to the strong room of the Deputy Commissioner's office at Jalpaiguri, and conversion of the Circuit House at Rajshahi into a Sub-Judge's ejlas and office; provision of wall shelves for the storage of forms and certain additions to, and alterations in the Judge's Court at Dinajpur; construction of a combined latrine and urinal for the jurors in the Judge's Court compound at Rangpur; provision of punkhas in the ejlas and record-room of the Munsif's Court at Naogaon; improvements in the Munsif's Court at Nilphamari; extension of the Subdivisional Court at Kurigram; and additions to, and alterations in the Collectorate at Barisal; additions to, and alterations in the Munsif's record-room at Patuakhali; raising of the land acquired for the ministerial officers' quarters at Manikganj; reconstruction of the Portuguese buildings attached to the Judge's Court at Comilla.

The following works were in progress:—

Construction of a two-storeyed Civil Court building at Burdwan; improvements to the strong room in the Subdivisional Courts at Magura and Jhenida; extension of the racks in the Judge's Courts at Boalia; provision of racks for the Settlement records in the Munsif's Court at Nator; extension of the Subdivisional Court at Thakurgaon; provision of record racks and certain additions to, and alterations in the Subdivisional Court at Nator, and construction of a record-room for the Collectorate at Faridpur.

Agricultural.

403. Construction of certain buildings in connection with the establishment of an Agricultural Middle School at Chinsura was in progress. Land for the construction of an Agricultural Farm at Suri was acquired. Construction of a seed godown attached to the Central Farm at Manipur. Dacca, was in progress. Construction of buildings in connection with the establishment of an Agricultural Farm at Sagardi was started.

Circuit House.

404. The Collector's residence at Rajshahi was converted into a Circuit House.

Residences for Government officials.

405. Dr. V. L. Watts' house at Bankura, with the adjoining lands, was acquired for the residence of the Civil Surgeon. The Settlement Officer's residence at Rajshahi was converted into a house for the Collector. Additions and alterations were made to the District Judge's residence at Pabna.

Residences for Local Government.

406. The conversion of the upper set of servants' quarters for Government House at Lowlands Place, Darjeeling, into a dhobikhana, and the construction of a new two-storeyed building for the accommodation of servants

were completed; the construction of quarters for the confidential assistant to His Excellency was almost completed, and the hot water installation in the dhobikhana was improved. The buildings attached to the temporary Government House, Dacca, which were destroyed by the cyclone, were reconstructed.

Subdivisional officers' and Munsifs' residences.

407. Glazed doors and windows of the Munsif's quarters at Naogaon were converted into panel doors and windows. Additions and alterations were made to the servants' quarters attached to the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Nator. Construction of a residence for the Subdivisional Officer at Alipur Duars was in progress. Construction of a residence for the Subdivisional Officer at Gopalganj was completed. Construction of a residence for the Subdivisional Officer at Brahmanbaria was in progress. Temporary quarters for four Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs were constructed at Sonapur, owing to erosion of the Noakhali coast.

Printing.

408 .Construction of the main block of the Government Press building at Chetla, Calcutta, was in progress.

Excise.

409. The thatched roof of the liquor warehouse at Midnapore was replaced with one of Raniganj tiles. Improvements to the spirit bonded warehouse at Santahar and construction of a pucca drain in the compound of the bonded warehouse at Lalmonirhat were completed. Construction of the liquor house at Mymensingh was in progress.

Registration.

410. Additions to, and alterations in Nos. 5 and 6, Government Place, North, were made for the accommodation of the Calcutta Registration office. The work at the Howrah Registration office was nearly completed. Additions to, and alterations in the Registration office racks at Burdwan were in progress. Steel record-racks were provided in the Registration office at Krishnagar. Construction of the Sub-Registrar's office and quarters at Mollarhat, with acquisition of land for the same, was completed. Additions to, and alterations in, the Registration office at Pabna were completed. Reconstruction of the Registration office at Mymensingh was completed. Construction of the Sub-Registry office at Barhatta was in progress. Bricks were collected for the construction of a sub-registry office at Barisal.

Jails.

411. Extensions were made to the Howrah and Barrackpore Jails and quarters for Sub-Assistant Surgeon were constructed in the Howrah Jail. Additions to, and alterations in the solitary cell in Bankura Jail and raising the compound wall and providing a 5-seated Alipore pattern latrine in the sub-jail at Serampore were in progress. Construction of two cells in the leper ward of the Central Jail at Midnapore was in progress. Additions to, and alterations in the sub-jail at Bagerhat were completed. Construction of family quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon and Assistant Jailer attached to the District Jail at Khulna was completed.

The following works were also completed:—

Construction of a temporary sub-jail at Kalimpong, a new drain in the jail at Jalpaiguri, a masonry well in the Bogra Jail, a 2-seated latrine for warders in the compound of the sub-jail at Kurigram, a new kitchen for Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners, a new masonry reservoir in the Pabna Jail and a jail hospital at Jalpaiguri; provision of a new pump to the masonry well in the Malda Jail; raising the compound and plinth of the sub-jail at Gaibandha; additions to, and alterations in the temporary sub-jail at Kalimpong, the stable for breed ponies in the Darjeeling Jail, and the jail building at Rangpur; improvements to the sub-jail at Kalimpong, addition of an extra godown to the Jail Superintendent's quarters at Darjeeling; and special repairs to the warders' barrack in Malda Jail; construction of a masonry compound wall, a gate building and an entrance gate for the sub-jail at Gopalganj and removing and reconstructing the sub-jail building inside the wall.

The construction of a row of ten cells in the Central Jail at Rampur Boalia and the extension of the sub-jail at Nator were in progress. Construction of the jail hospital at Faridpur was started.

Medical.

412. The following works were in progress :—

Lunatic Observation Ward at Bhowanipur, compounders' quarters with office and store room at the Albert Victor Leper Asylum at Gobra;

second storey to the Elliott Ward in the Campbell Hospital, Eye Hospital and Nurses Home at the Medical College, Calcutta.

Servants' quarters at the Medical College were completed, and land was acquired for further extension of the Medical College and for a hostel for civil students. Construction of a Medical School at Burdwan was in progress. A masonry well was sunk in the Civil Surgeon's residence at Khulna. Certain improvements to the dispensary building at Phansidewa were taken in hand and completed. The mortuary at Naogaon was removed to a new site.

In regard to the Dacca Mitford Hospital project, the works noted below were completed:—

(1) Constructing King Edward Memorial Hall.
(2) Constructing roads, outlet drains and laying out grounds.
(3) Constructing Assistant Surgeon's quarters and a European Ward.
(4) Certain works in connection with the reconstruction of the Mitford Hospital.
(5) Constructing Dufferin outdoor dispensary.
(6) Providing electric lights in the King Edward Memorial Hall.

An extension of the two wings on the north side of the Medical School at Dacca was carried out. Terraced roof was provided in place of existing corrugated-iron roof in the male dissecting room and the Anatomical Museum in the Medical School, Dacca. A temporary residence for the Civil Surgeon of Noakhali was constructed at Sonapur.

Education.

413. As a sanitary improvement, the old latrines of the Government School of Art, Calcutta, were remodelled. The old stables at the Bethune College, Calcutta, were converted into class rooms.

The following works were completed:—

Extension of the common-room at Krishnagar College; construction of a Guru-Training School at Bankura, a latrine and urinal in the zilla school at Bankura, a Hindu and Muhammadan cookshed in the Guru-Training School at Debogram, a room for housing distilled water plant in the Rajshahi College, a Muhammadan hostel for the Bogra Zilla School, a tiffin and drinking water-shed for the Jalpaiguri Zilla School, a tiffin shed for the Bogra Zilla School, a Muhammadan hostel for the Pabna Zilla School, a wood godown for the Kurseong Victoria Girls' School, a latrine and urinal for the teachers of the Bogra Zilla School, a drain in the Bayley-Govinda Lal Technical School at Rangpur and an additional bathroom in the seventh wing of the dormitory for the mistress of the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; improvements to Hindu and Muhammadan cooksheds attached to the Normal School at Rangpur, to the compound of the zilla school at Jalpaiguri, to the Guru-Training School at Pabna, and to the hot-water supply to the north and south side bathrooms of the Dormitory in the Victoria Boys' School at Kurseong; extension of the existing tennis-ground at the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; provision of new punkhas in the Collegiate School, Rajshahi, fire protective appliances to the zilla school at Pabna, a masonry tank, a boiler shed and a hot-water installation to the Isolation Hospital at the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; surveying the proposed site and advance collection of building stones for the proposed new dormitory building at the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; erection of iron railings round the Kindergarten play-ground in the compound of the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; completion of the enclosure wall; filling up the small tank and improvements to the compound of the Vidyamovee Girls' School at Mymensingh; and additions to, and alterations in the Middle Vernacular Girls' School and Mistress' quarters at Faridpur.

The following works were in progress:—

Construction of a Model Girls' School at Bankura, a dyeing shed at the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore, Moullim Training School at Peepnolpathi (Hooghly), Hindu and Muhammadan cooksheds in the Guru-Training School at Hijli, a cookshed and a latrine with urinal for the

Moullim Training School at Bagerhat, a Guru-Training School at Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Faridpur, Sagardi and Patuakhali, a hostel for the Muhammadan students for the Rangpur Zilla School, a play-shed for the Eden High School for Girls, Dacca, Head Master's quarters for the Guru-Training School, Munshiganj; temporary buildings for the Noakhali Zilla School were erected near Sonapur.

Land was acquired for the zilla school at Burdwan and the zilla school and the Technical School at Barisal.

414. Premises Nos. 19 to 19/9, Lal Bazar Street, Calcutta, for the quarters of married sergeants, and No. 13, Elysium Row, for the office of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, were acquired. Land was also acquired for the Kalighat and Bhowanipur police-stations. The office and residence for the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Northern Division (No. 113, Upper Circular Road), were completed. Premises No. 89, Park Street, were acquired and added to and altered for the accommodation of the Park Street police-station. The first floor of the Constables' Barrack, Taltola thana, was converted into Inspector's quarters. Additions to, and alterations in the Fenwick Bazar thana, to convert it into headquarters of the Public Vehicles Department, were in progress. Police.

Construction of the Police Hospital at Bhowanipur and Sibpur and of the Police Morgue and Coroner's Court, Calcutta, were in progress. Construction of police buildings at Khandaghosh, Hanskhali, Khoksa, Nabogram, Bethuadahari, and hospital at Krishnagar, were in progress. Construction of certain police buildings at Jessore, Indus, Keshabpur, Polba, Chuadanga, Faracca, Ghurni, Krishnagar and a residence for the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Serampur were completed. Certain additions to, and alterations in the residence of the Superintendent of Police in the old thana building at Bankura were carried out. A cook-house for constables of the town police at Bankura was also constructed. The Police buildings at Diamond Harbour and at Mooriganga were almost completed. Construction of the Deputy Superintendent of Police's residence at Diamond Harbour, Police buildings at Debhatta, family quarters for a sub-inspector and a head constable in the police-station at Shamnagar in the Khulna district, quarters for the Deputy Superintendent of Police at Basirhat, police buildings at Sangalbazar and Keshpur in the Midnapore district and additions to, and alterations in the constables' barrack at Midnapore were completed. The following works were also completed:—

(1) Constructing Police buildings at Rahumari in the Rangpur district.
(2) Constructing Police buildings at Kaunia in the Rangpur district.
(3) Constructing Police buildings at Gabtali in the Bogra district.
(4) Constructing Police buildings at Joypurhat in the Bogra district.
(5) Constructing Police Investigating centre at Chatmohar in the Pabna district.
(6) Constructing Police investigating centre at Paba in the Rajshahi district.
(7) Constructing Police investigating centre at Mohanpur Khurd in the Rajshahi district.
(8) Constructing certain buildings at Serajganj police-station in the Pabna district.
(9) Constructing certain buildings for the accommodation of the town outpost at Pabna.
(10) Constructing a residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Rajshahi Range, at Jalpaiguri.

The following works in connection with the Central Police Training College at Sardah, which were in progress the previous year, were completed:—

(1) Re-excavating and clearing the large tank.
(2) Additional buildings.
(3) The gymnasium and drill shed (subsequently dismantled, owing to the erosion of the Ganges).

The construction of quarters for nine hospital warders, one constable and two compounders in connection with the Police Training College, Sardah, was in progress at the close of the year.

The following buildings were in progress:—

(1) Police investigating centre at Tapan in the Dinajpur district.
(2) Police investigating centre at Gurudaspur in the Rajshahi district.
(3) Police investigating centre at Raninagar in the Rajshahi district.
(4) Constructing Police buildings at Bholahat in the Malda district.
(5) Constructing Police buildings at Fulchari in the Rangpur district (materials have been collected, but site not yet settled).
(6) Investigating centre at Pirganj in the Dinajpur district (almost completed).
(7) Investigating centre at Dhamoirhat in the Dinajpur district (almost completed).
(8) Constructing an office building, for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Rajshahi Range, at Jalpaiguri.
(9) Constructing Police buildings at Kishoreganj in the Rangpur district (materials collected, but site not settled yet).
(10) Construction of Police buildings at Balurghat in the Dinajpur district.
(11) Construction of Police buildings at Fulbari in the Rangpur district.
(12) Construction of Police buildings at Titalia in the Jalpaiguri district (almost completed).
(13) Construction of Police buildings at Alipur Duars, district Jalpaiguri (materials were being collected. No actual construction work could be done owing to the site not being transferred to the Public Works Department by the Civil Department).
(14) Construction of certain Police buildings at Kumargram, district Jalpaiguri (brick manufacture was in progress, site not yet formally transferred).

The following works were taken in hand and completed during the year:—

(1) Certain improvements to the European Police Inspector's quarters at Jalpaiguri.
(2) Constructing a combined latrine and urinal in the Police Lines at Bogra.
(3) Certain improvements in the new Police Lines at Rangpur.
(4) Constructing sweepers' shed in the Police Lines, Rangpur.
(5) Providing sky-light on the roof of the Police office at Bogra.

Materials were collected for the improvements to the police-station at Pirgacha in the Rangpur district and work was started.

The following works, which were in progress in the previous year, were completed during the year under report:—

(1) Constructing a small investigating centre at Serajdikhan.
(2) Constructing a small investigating centre at Faridabad.
(3) Constructing Police buildings at Kalmakanda.
(4) Constructing Police investigating centre at Kaoran.
(5) Constructing Police buildings at Singair.
(6) Constructing a small investigating centre at Baidyabazar.
(7) Constructing police-station house at Gandaria.
(8) Constructing cookshed on a fresh site in the compound of the Constables' Training School in the Mill Barrack, Dacca.

Certain works in the Military Police Lines at Pilkhana, Dacca, were completed.

The following works were in progress:—

(1) Constructing Police buildings at Madhupur in the Mymensingh district.
(2) Constructing a small investigating centre at Char Bhadrasan in the Faridpur district.

(3) Constructing a small investigating centre at Kalkini in the Faridpur district.
(4) Constructing office building for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Barisal.
(5) Constructing a new Kotwali police-station at Chittagong.
(6) Constructing Police buildings at Feni.
(7) Constructing Police buildings at Sonagazi.

The following buildings were also completed:—

(1) Constructing Police section station on the south bank at Chandpur.
(2) Converting the bank house at Chandpur into a residence for the Deputy Superintendent of Police.
(3) Constructing Police buildings at Faridganj.
(4) Constructing residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Barisal.
(5) Constructing small Police investigating centre at Gosairhat in the Faridpur district.
(6) Constructing Police outpost at Janjira in the Faridpur district.

Temporary residence for the Superintendent of Police, Noakhali, was constructed at Sonapur, owing to the erosion of the coast at Noakhali. The construction of the small investigating centre at Rajair was started.

415. The Government Research Tannery at Tangra was completed. Land was acquired for the Bengal Survey Office. Teakwood record racks in Barrack No. 1 for a Settlement office at Berhampore were provided. **Miscellaneous.**

416. The following works were in progress :—

Collector's Court with Treasury and Guard House, Circuit House, Jail buildings, Police buildings, residence for the Superintendent of Police, three sets of quarters for three Deputy Magistrates and Dâk Bungalow. **Works in connection with the headquarters of the new Hijli district: Hijli.**

Subdivisional Court, Sub-Treasury and Guard House, sub-jail, residence for the Subdivisional Officer, Munsifi, and sub-Deputy Collector's quarters. **Jhargram.**

For temporary water-supply at Hijli and Jhargram arrangements were made for excavating tanks and wells. Temporary staff quarters for the Public Works Department subordinates were provided. Construction of the principal roads in the town was in progress. Excavation of two tanks, with pucca ghats, one in the Park and the other near the Collectorate at Hijli, was taken up.

The construction of office and quarters for the special officer in charge of the Co-operative Societies in the Rajshahi Division at Naogaon was in progress.

417. The following works were in progress :—Construction of a Sub-Overseer's quarters at Nator, a godown and rest house for Subordinates at Serajganj, a godown at Naogoan and a godown and workshed with quarters for the staff at Jalpaiguri. **Public Works Department Buildings.**

418. Hospital for Tropical Diseases at the Medical College, Calcutta, was completed and the extension of the School of Tropical Medicines was in progress. Construction of a kitchen and dining hall and certain additions to, and alterations in the Loreto Convent at Darjeeling was completed. **Contribution works.**

CONSULTING ARCHITECTS' REPORT.

419. The Consulting Architect has submitted the following report regarding the more important projects prepared in his office. A number of photographs of buildings designed by the Consulting Architect are appended to the report. **Architectural Section.**

Very little work designed by the Consulting Architect was completed during the year. The list, however, includes an office and residence for the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Northern Division, in Sukea Street, the

Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Calcutta, the Assistant Surgeon's quarters and the European ward at the Mitford Hospital, Dacca, and the out patients department attached to the same hospital.

The following works from the Consulting Architect's design were under construction, or construction was started during the year and detailed drawings were supplied from time to time during progress of the work:—

(1) Police Morgue and Coroner's Court, Calcutta.
(2) New Nurses' Home, Medical College, Calcutta.
(3) Eye Hospital, Medical College, Calcutta.
(4) Extension of School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.
(5) Extension of General Post Office, Calcutta.
(6) Police Hospital, Bhowanipur, Calcutta.
(7) Observation Ward, Bhowanipur, Calcutta.
(8) Bengal Government Press, Chetla, Calcutta.
(9) Police Hospital, Sibpur, Howrah.
(10) Medical School, Burdwan.
(11) Civil Court building, Burdwan.
(12) King Edward Memorial Block, Mitford Hospital, Dacca.
(13) Post and Telegraph office, Darjeeling.
(14) Collectorate, Hijli.
(15) Circuit House, Hijli.
(16) Dâk Bungalow, Hijli.

Detailed designs were prepared for the following, but work has not yet been taken in hand.

(1) Office for the Director, Bengal Survey, Chetla, Calcutta.
(2) Extension of existing Nurses' Home, Medical College, Calcutta.
(3) Police Lines, Hijli.
(4) Jailor's quarters, etc., Hijli.
(5) Residence for Magistrate, Hijli.
(6) Dow Hill School Dormitories, Kurseong.
(7) Vidamoyee Girls' School, Mymensingh.
(8) Judge's Court, Bogra.

Sketches were also prepared for the following:—

(1) Proposed flats at Porabazar, Calcutta.
(2) House for Chief Justice, Calcutta.
(3) Extension of Eden Hospital and Out-patients' Maternity Department, Calcutta.
(4) Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Calcutta.
(5) Dental School, Calcutta.
(6) Married Sergeants' quarters, Lall Bazar, Calcutta.
(7) House for Superintendent of Police, Dinajpur.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Darjeeling.

420. The reconstruction of the "Howe Truss" bridge over the Setijhora at the 18th mile of the Teesta Valley Road was taken up during the year.

The following surveys were undertaken, the last only being completed during the year:—

(1) Road from Teesta to Kalimpong.
(2) Lachen Road for the purposes of record.
(3) Main road at Kalimpong in connection with the development of a hill station.
(4) Road from Panighatta to Namsu.

The construction of a bridle road in connection with the development of Kalimpong as a hill station was started.

421. An estimate amounting to Rs. 69,000 was sanctioned for metalling the remaining 8½ miles of the Hilli-Balurghat Road in Dinajpur district. The work was started and collection of bricks was in progress at the close of the year. Dinajpur.

422. During the first half year of the year work in connection with the improvement of roads in the Duars of the Jalpaiguri district was confined to the completion of those works the construction of which had been started last year or earlier. These were:— Jalpaiguri.

The Dalgaon-Lankapara Road up to mile 6¼.
The Dimdima bridge.
The Kalua bridge.
The Pagli bridge.

It was also decided to extend the Dalgaon-Lankapara Road up to the 10th mile. The land, however, was not obtained till late in the year, resulting in slower progress with work than was anticipated.

In April 1919, the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Cumming, Member in charge of the Public Works Department Portfolio, made a tour of inspection of the Duars, and in November, a report containing the results of this inspection was published. The recommendations of the Hon'ble Member were subsequently accepted by Government and sanction was received to commence work on the following roads:—

(*a*) Barnes-Mainaguri Road (length 6 miles).—An estimate for metalling and improving this road, amounting to Rs. 1,63,890, was sanctioned in November 1919. The earthwork was almost completed during the year.

(*b*) Latiguri to Mainaguri Road (length 12 miles).—An estimate for constructing this road, amounting to Rs. 2,92,700, was sanctioned in January 1920, but work could not be started as possession of the land had not been obtained.

The construction of a reinforced concrete arch bridge of 60 feet span which is included in the estimate, was started towards the end of the year.

(*c*) Mainaguri to Dhupguri Road.—As orders for constructing this road were given late in the year, the work was not started.

Bridges over the Jaldhaka, Dimdima and Pagli rivers were completed during the year and opened to traffic.

The bridge over the Kalua river was almost completed at the end of the year and the construction of three bridges on the Dalgaon-Lankapara Road was started and fair progress made.

The conditions as regards labour and materials remained very much as in previous years; prices remained high and materials were difficult to obtain.

On the whole, the year's work was satisfactory and the progress made provided unbroken communication over the fully metalled and bridged roads in those tea garden areas in which the improvements were completed.

The construction of a godown and workshop with quarters for the staff at Jalpaiguri was in progress.

423. The construction of a road from Mahalsory to Ramgarh has been in progress since 1915-16. A revised estimate was under preparation. Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Progress was made with the construction of two bridle roads from Nainerchar to Mainimukh and from Khagrasory to Dighinala, but the work could not be completed owing to scarcity of labour.

ARBORICULTURE.

424. Arboricultural operations along roads in charge of Public Works Department were carried out to the funds available. Arboriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta. 425. In order to remove the congestion of traffic on Chowringhee Road between Corporation Street and Sudder Street, the tram lies between Mayo Road and Esplanade Junction were diverted to the west of the Chowringhee walk on the Calcutta maidan.

A new footpath along the east side of Hospital Road from its junction with Queensway to its junction with Lower Circular Road was constructed at a cost of Rs. 11,329.

Rajshahi. 426. The stone and brick revetment for protecting the bank of the river Ganges at Sardah Police Training College, which was taken up last year, was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 1,28,727. The bank at the end of the revetment was seriously eroded during the last flood season, and the revetment work itself was damaged to some extent. In consequence of this, an estimate (Rs. 38,900) was sanctioned for repairing the revetment and filling up the eastern end with stone boulders. The work was in progress.

Pabna. 427. The Ganges (Padma) at Pabna, which has been threatening the town of Pabna since the flood of 1917, assumed a dangerous attitude during the last flood season. It carried away a considerable tract of land intervening between the Padma and the town. Protective measures were resolved upon and an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,55,385 was sanctioned for wire mattress protection. The work was in progress at the end of the year under review.

Jalpaiguri. 428. The construction of spur work in the Teesta bed, opposite the Zilla School and Forest office, for protecting the town of Jalpaiguri, was completed during the year.

Reclamation of the marshy land near the Karla Bridge at Jalpaiguri was continued and by the end of the year about three-fourths of the whole project had been completed.

Malda. 429. The spur work in the bed of the Mahananda river for protecting the embakment near Ramnagore was completed.

Darjeeling 430. The construction of stone " sausage " bunds in the Sarnamati river bed for supply of water to Balukgarah jote was taken in hand and completed during the year.

Khulna. 431. The Bhairab river foreshore at Khulna near the Government buildings was scoured during the severe cyclone of the 24th September 1919, and the construction of spurs to protect the river bank was taken in hand. The work was in progress at the end of the year; the expenditure for the year being Rs. 2,002 against the sanctioned estmate of Rs. 4,192.

Barisal. 432. There was very little erosion during the year. The protective measures carried out in the form of " sausage " work appear to have checked the erosion.

The jetty moorage at Barisal with the approach bund, which has hitherto been in charge of the Collector of Bakarganj, was taken over by the Public Works Department, and an estimate was sanctioned amounting to Rs. 1,940 for improvements to the landing stage.

Patuakhali. 433. There was no serious erosion during the year.

Madaripur. 434. Erosion of the river bank steadily continued. No original or repair work was executed in connection with the existing protective works.

Gopalganj. 435. During the intense cyclone of the 24th September 1919, some landslips mainly due to wave action occurred. An estimate was sanctioned for restoring the eroded places.

Noakhali. 436. Erosion continued throughout the year, but the rate decreased as compared with previous years, the river having encroached 538 feet as against 658 feet of 1918-19.

Administration of the Electricity Act. 437. During the year, the following licenses for the supply of energy were granted by the Government of Bengal under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 :-

(1) " The Hooghly-Chinsura Electric License, 1919 " was granted to Messrs. Nursing Sahay Madan Gopal, of Calcutta.

(2) " The Bhatpara Electric License, 1920 " was granted to Messrs. Begg, Dunlop and Company, of Calcutta.

The following applications for the grant of licenses under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, were received by the Government of Bengal during the year :—

(1) From the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation for the supply of energy within the area covered by the Bally and Uttarpara municipalities.
(2) From Messrs. Nursing Sahay Madan Gopal, of Calcutta, for the supply of energy within the area covered by the Serampur Municipality, Mahesh, Chatra, etc.
(3) From Mr. M. C. Ghosal for the supply of energy within the area covered by the Chittagong Municipality.
(4) From Messrs. Octavius, Steel & Co., for the supply of energy in the Dooars of the Jalpaiguri district.
(5) From Messrs. Kilburn & Co., of Calcutta, for the supply of energy within the area covered by the Raniganj coalfields.

The sanction of Government, under section 28 (1) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, was accorded to the supply, by the Gouripore Company, Ltd., of electric energy to (1) the jute mills now being built at Kantalpara, Naihati (to be called the Nuddea Jute Mills), and (2) in bulk to the Naihati Municipality in the event of their desiring to take a supply in bulk from the Gouripore Co., Ltd., at a future date.

An application was received from Messrs. Andrew, Yule & Co., Managing Agents, Dishergarh Power Supply Co., Ltd., for sanction under section 28 (1) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to supply energy to certain collieries in the districts of Burdwan and Bankura.

The functions of the Government of Bengal under section 18 (1) of the Indian Electricity Act 1910, and under clause XIII of the Schedule to the Act were delegated to the Electric Inspector, Bengal.

438. Six cattle-sheds at Siliguri belonging to the Military Department were burnt down on the night of the 25th April 1919. An estimate was sanctioned amounting to Rs. 3,050 for the reconstruction of two of the sheds on the existing pucca floors with double mat walls and thatched roofs. The work was taken in hand and completed during the year. **Imperial Military Works.**

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

439. The drainage scheme for the Kalimpong Bazar and town was made over to the District Engineer, Darjeeling, for execution. **Darjeeling.**

Railways.

440. With the exception of the following light railways which are to some extent under the control of the Government of Bengal, the more important lines of railway in this Province are under the direct control of the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board) :— **Administration.**

	Gauge.	Length in miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway ...	2′-0″	51·00
(2) Bengal-Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar-Tribeni).	2′-6″	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway ...	2′-0″	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway ...	2′-0″	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway ...	2′-6″	52·24
(6) Jessore-Jhenidah Railway ...	2′-6″	36·75
		236.88

441. During the year under review no new railways were opened to traffic in this Presidency; the total mileage open on 31st March 1920 was therefore the same as on 31st March 1919, viz., 3,269·92 miles. **Mileage**

Survey sanctioned.

442. The following surveys were sanctioned by the Railway Board during the year :—

By the agency of the Eastern Bengal Railway—

A detailed survey for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Nandanpur to Gabsera, a place on the Jamuna River opposite to Serajganj, in connection with the proposed Mymensingh-Serajganj Railway.

By the agency of the Assam-Bengal Railway—

(1) Survey for a light railway from Akhaura station on the Assam-Bengal Railway to Birendranagar *viâ* Agartala, a distance of about 15 miles.

(2) A traffic survey for a line of railway from Alipur Duars to Kumargram, a distance of about 26 miles.

By the agency of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extension's Company, Limited—

(1) A detailed survey for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Pachagarh to Dinajpur *viâ* Bodachakla, Nischintipur and Bochagunge, a distance of about 55 miles.

(2) A detailed survey for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Kissenganj to Nekmurd, a distance of about 20 miles.

(3) A detailed survey for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Pirgunge to Bochagunge, a distance of about 8 miles.

By the agency of the Jessore-Jhenida Railway Company, Limited—

A reconnaissance survey for an extension of the Jessore-Jhenida Railway from Jhenida to Salkopa, a distance of about 11 miles.

By the agency of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co., of Calcutta—

(1) A detailed survey for a loop line of railway on the metre gauge from Sararchar *viâ* Kathiadi to Kishoreganj, both stations on the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway.

(2) A reconnaissance survey for a system of feeder railways on the metre gauge in the Kishoreganj area comprising lines from—(*a*) Kishoreganj to Badla, (*b*) Nilganj to Kendua, and (*c*) Kishoreganj *viâ* Nandail to Brahmaputra, a total distance of about 50 miles.

New construction sanctioned.

443. The construction by the agency of the East Indian Railway was sanctioned of a 5′ 6″ gauge railway from a point north of the Adjai river on the Ondal-Sainthia Chord line of the East Indian Railway to Pariarpur *viâ* Kasta, a distance of about 17 miles.

The proposed Jessore-Faridpur Chord Railway.

Other important matters.

444. On the invitation of the Railway Board to express their views on certain alternative alignments which had been proposed for this railway the Government of Bengal recommended that the alignment from Jessore to Rajbari *viâ* Narikelbaria and Magura would be the least objectionable; at the same time they expressed the opinion that the construction, in this locality, of a railway crossing the important drainage lines of a tract of country which is at present unstable owing to the vast and significant changes that are taking place in the river system, would be a most difficult and expensive problem. For these reasons and in view of the fact that communications in this area are provided for by inland steamer services, they considered that it was undesirable to construct railways in this area. The Government of India, after consideration of the views expressed by the Local Government, agreed that schemes for the extension of the broad gauge beyond Jessore should not be proceeded with further at present.

Mymensingh-Jamalpur-Jagannathganj Railway.

This railway, 56·05 miles in length, was owned by the India General Navigation and Railway Company. Its transfer to Government being con-

sidered advisable for financial and administrative reasons it was, in accordance with the terms of the contract, purchased from the Company on the 1st January 1920. It now forms an integral part of the Eastern Bengal Railway system.

The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.

The question long outstanding between the Government of Bengal and the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company, as to the separate liability of Government and the Railway Company to pay for various works which protect, or in other ways affect, those portions of the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road which do not carry the railway, was finally settled; the separate lengths of the cart road on which the railway does not run were clearly determined.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation works for the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India Part III—Commercial service.]

445. The transactions of the Irrigation Department, Bengal Presidency, for the year 1919-20, are exhibited in the following statement so far as they relate to works of irrigation and navigation:— **Capital and revenue accounts.**

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1919-20.	Expenditure to end of 1919-20.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1920.
Major Irrigation Worki.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct charges ...	1,08,67,281	(-) 3,666	1,08,61,690	5,591
Indirect charges ...	2,48,678	6	2,48,839	(-) 161
Total ...	1,11,15,959	(-) 3,660	1,11,10,529	5,430
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,61,24,956	7,12,301	1,46,43,072	14,81,884
Indirect charges ...	2,74,742	12,518	2,27,632	47,110
Total ...	1,63,99,698	7,24,819	1,48,70,704	15,28,994

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Minor Irrigation Works	3,19,053	2,09,574	10,717	2,20,291	98,762
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept	7,37,834	8,60,107	28,601	8,88,708	(-)1,50,874
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept ...	32,696	71,480	4,446	75,926	(-)14,230
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept	26,918	38,413	...	38,413	(-)11,495

Irrigation.

446. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1919:—

	Midnapore Canal (Major Works).			Eden Canal (Minor Works).		
	Kharif inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	Total.	*Rabi.*
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1917 ...	83,675	779	84,454	24,803	489	25,292
For 1919-20 ...	87,504	2,188	89,692	20,674	125	20,799

Length of Canals.

447. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1919-20:—

	Midnapore Canal.	Eden Canal.
	Miles.	Miles.
Main Canal, Irrigation	53·00	7·5
Branch Canal, Irrigation	16·75	2
Distributaries of above	254·54	7·6
Navigable channels	69·75	...

Navigation.

448. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1919-20 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1919:—

	Midnapore Canal.		Hijli Tidal Canal.		Calcutta and Eastern Canals.		Madaripur Bil Route.		Orissa Coast Canal.		Nadia Rivers.	
	Average of the triennium ending March 1920.	For the year 1919-20.	Average of the triennium ending March 1919.	For the year 1919-20.	Average of the triennium ending March 1919.	For the year. 1919-20.	Average of the triennium ending March 1919.	For the year 1919-20.	Average of the trieninnm ending March 1919.	For the year 1919-20.	Average of the trienuium ending March 1919.	For the year 1919-20.
Length of Canal open ... Miles	69¾	69¾	49¾	49¾	1,184	1,184	38	38	54½	54½	488½	488½
Receipts ... Rs.	42,469	42,329	59,849	77,262	3,66,067	3,80,101	3,44,267	3,40,003	13,187	14,328	17,014	13,874
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ... Tons.	354,118	435,936	225,219	294,289	986,631	1,352,678	965,760	933,306	108,139	128,992	88,950	69,606
Estimated weight of cargo ... ,,	69,787	68,142	82,500	102,654	680,535	702,926	1,423,292	1,362,200	36,469	45,967	61,888	45,568
Estimated value of goods ... Rs.	69,88,207	98,80,107	64,88,430	1,01,78,213	7,89,35,004	9,59,75,107	16,56,19,624	18,51,44,803	26,58,917	39,59,391	83,50,176	1,43,08,427
Estimated value of receipts ... ,,	7,961	9,263	7,846	10,092	44,825	77,518	3,077	7,365	42,837	43,261	65, 90	85,635

In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the discharges of certain rivers as shown below were recorded during the year under review:—

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

River Damodar.

Date.	Discharges in Cusecs at —		
	Jujuti.	Jhanpur.	Jamalpur.
12th April 1919	105	...	...
30th ,, ,, ...	...	...	31
17th May ,, ...	...	610	...
29th ,, ,, ...	...	...	406

Date.	Discharges in Cusecs at-		
	Jujuti.	Jhanpur.	Jamalpur.
30th May 1919	...	456	...
31st „ „	314	...	...
29th June „	...	...	6,259
30th „ „	8,306	6,977	...
27th July „	...	...	14,344
31st „ „	10,633	14,337	...
28th August „	9,590	...	...
30th „ „	...	...	13,568
30th September „	5,800	...	5,542
8th October „	...	...	10,331
14th „ „	...	...	12,053
20th „ „	3,245	...	...
22nd „ „	...	...	4,139
31st „ „	...	...	4,193
8th November „	...	3	...
14th „ „	...	...	1,872
26th „ „	...	...	1,284
28th „ „	1,717	...	...
30th „ „	...	2,056	...
11th December „	1,135	...	...
14th „ „	...	...	988
28th „ „	...	...	764
31st „ „	791	881	...
15th January 1920	...	...	570
16th „ „	647	...	...
30th „ „	...	...	484
„ „	503	...	...
9th February „	...	...	394
17th „ „	783	...	...
26th „ „	...	...	380
27th „ „	...	366	...
29th „ „	289	...	...
14th March „	...	...	2,267
16th „ „	2,012	1,889	...
30th „ „	...	...	1,173
31st „ „	1,294	2,048	...

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Statement showing the observed discharges of the rivers in the Birbhum district for the year 1919-20.

Names of rivers.	September 1919.					October 1919.				
	Maximum discharge.		Minimum discharge.		Average discharge.	Maximum discharge.		Minimum discharge.		Average discharge.
	Date.	Quantity in cusec.	Date.	Quantity in cusec.	Quantity in cusec.	Date.	Quantity in cusec.	Date.	Quantity in cusec.	Quantity in cusec.
	September 1919.		September 1919.			October 1919.		October 1919.		
More (*a*)	12th	19,183	29th	531	3,127	1st	11,349	25th	300	1,435
Brahmani (*b*)	12th	8,835	28th	310	1,484	1st	3,582	31st	59	506
Bons'oic (*b*)	11th	18,763	26th	806	2,088	1st	5,721	31st	231	988

(*a*) As high flood occusred in August the river came down in September and October and the course of this river did not change and during the observation period there was no shifting of the gauges. Calculations of discharges for September and October were marked out separately from the same plan and cross section. During the latter part of October the water at the down gauge came very low for which the silting had to be removed so that there was no necessity for a shifting of the gauges.

(*b*) As highest flood occurred in August the river came down in September and October and the course of this river did not change and during the observation period there was no shifting of the gauges. The up gauge near the Ferry Ghat was stolen away which was immediately fixed in position in its former level from the Bench Mark Pillars. Calculations were worked out in the same manner as in the case of the river More. There was no necessity for shifting the gauges.

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation works.

449. The classification of works dealt within this review is as follows:—

Account—" 49 Major Works ".—In this class are included the Midnapore and the Hijli Tidal Canals. The latter is used for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The capital accounts of these canals have been closed and all present capital outlay is charged against head " 43-Minor Works and Navigation." The revenue account is shown under " 42-Major Works Working Expenses."

(*i*) *Account—" 43-Minor Works and Navigation"*.—The works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept are the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bil route. These are intended for navigation.

(*ii*) The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers, the Gaighatta and Buxi Khal and a part of the Orissa Coast Canal. The Magra Hat Drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which has been carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act is also included under this head.

(*iii*) The works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept are (*a*) the Eden Canal which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried out for the conservancy of the rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi, Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

Agricultural and sanitary drainage works are not reviewed here, as these subjects are separately dealt with in the Embankment and Drainage Report.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly described in the following summary which is divided for convenience into circles of superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital outlay.

450. A sum of Rs. 268 for works only was expended during the year on the construction of tahsildar's office and quarters at Debra which was completed during the year. The total outlay (direct charges) debitable to the capital account during the year was, however, Rs. (—) 3,666 inclusive of Rs. 4,000 received during the year as receipts against the capital account. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year was Rs. 83,10,885.

Rainfall.

451. The rainfall at Midnapore during the year was 64·34 inches as compared with 54·44 inches of the previous year. There were several high floods in the Cossye Division during the year.

Irrigation.

452. The area irrigated from the canal was 89,692 acres against 80,749 acres during the year 1918-19. The increase was due to the renewal of the leases which lapsed in previous years.

The cash realization on account of water-rates during the year was Rs. 1,69,971 against a total demand of Rs. 1,75,692. The amount remitted or written off during the year was Rs. 2,357 as compared with Rs. 2,768 in the preceding year. The balance unrealized at the end of the year was Rs. 3,364 as against Rs. 2,204 at the end of the previous year.

The heavy balance of water rates remaining uncollected is attributable to the poor outturn of crops in some villages, due to damage done by the abnormal accumulation of water in the low lands commanded by Range III of the canal. It is also partly due to the fact that some of the villages executed leases at a very late period of the irrigation season. The net collection, however, of water-rates on the Midnapore canal continues to be satisfactory being 97·9 per cent. of the total demand. The rate for long-term leases was raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per acre with effect from 1st April 1905. The question of further enhancing the rate has been held in abeyance for the present.

453. The navigation receipts during the year were less than those of the previous year being Rs. 42,329 as compared with Rs. 49,440 during the year 1918-19. The closure of the tidal reaches for the purpose of silt clearance accounts chiefly for the decrease. Navigation.

454. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,39,935 and Rs. 1,90,956, respectively as against Rs. 2,35,841 and Rs. 1,74,613 in the preceding year. The balance of net revenue for the year under review is Rs. 48,979. Financial results.

The expenditure during the year on extensions and improvements was Rs. 164 as compared with Rs. 1,228 of the previous year. This outlay was incurred chiefly on the construction of a wooden bridge over distributary No. 6.

The expenditure under the head " Repairs " was Rs. 1,05,241 compared with Rs. 88,435 of the previous year and is briefly detailed below:—

	Rs.
Head works	22,247
Main canal and branches	63,708
Distributaries	17,618
Drainage and protective works	1,668

The increase is due to an expenditure of Rs. 23,044 which was incurred on the silt clearance of the 8th reach (Bansberia to Ulûberia) of the canal, also to an outlay of Rs. 12,055 which was expended on protecting, by means of stone pitching, the eroded portion of the left bank of the Cossye river above the Midnapore anicut.

Hijli Tidal Canal.

455. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account of the canal during the year. The toal capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 79,118 and Rs. 29,335, respectively, as against Rs. 68,764 and Rs. 67,820 in 1918-19. The increase in gross receipts is accounted for by a better crop outturn and to the fact that the channel which had been silt cleared in the previous year offered improved transport facilities. The decrease in working expenses as compared with the previous year is due to the fact that there was no expenditure on silt clearance during the year. The net balance of revenue for the year under review is Rs. 49,783. Hijli Tidal Canal.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

456. A sum of Rs. 1,17,049 (direct charges) debitable to the capital account of the canals was expended during the year inclusive of a credit of Rs. 72,625 on account of the hire of the dredgers *Foyers* and *Alexandra*. The principal items of expenditure are detailed below:— Capital account.

(*a*) The cost of two tunnel tugs.

(*b*) The cost of two coal barges which were essential for the purpose of providing coaling plant for the two suction dredgers.

(*c*) The cost of excavating a channel between the Kankrabunia khal and Channel Creek to the South of the Doagra channel in the Sunderbans steamer route. The work was in progress during the year and was very nearly completed.

457. The receipt from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 3,80,101 as compared with Rs. 4,53,867 in the preceding year. The decrease is chiefly due to partial failure of the crops in Eastern Bengal. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 3,96,146 and Navigation receipts.

Rs. 7,58,516, respectively, as compared with Rs. 4,75,974 and Rs. 3,81,911 in 1918-19. This result shows a deficit of Rs. 3,62,370 against a profit of Rs. 94,063 in the preceding year.

The more important items on which expenditure was incurred during the year are briefly noted below:—

Extensions and improvements—

	Rs.
(1) Construction of a sluice at Samukpotta	89,109
(2) Reconstruction of the Kidderpore bridge	72,821

Maintenance and repairs—

(1) Silt clearance of the Kaorapukur khal from Russa to Bhageswar	5,661
(2) Upkeep of the marks and buoys in the Sunderbans steamer route	7,685
(3) Dredging shoals at the Atharbanka river ... ... (The dredger *Foyers* was employed on this work and 4,806,150 c. ft. of earth was dredged at the rate of Rs. 3·45 per 1,000 c. ft.)	16,612
(4) Dredging shoals at the Madhumati river ... ... (The dredger *Foyers* was employed on this work and 6,007,750 c. ft. of earth was dredged at the rate of Rs. 2·64 per 1,000 c. ft.)	15,889
(5) Dredging the Doagra channel ... ... (Rupees 8,356 were spent for earthwork in terminal and ridge bunds and 1,044,516 c. ft. of earth was excavated, working out at the rate of Rs. 8 per 1,000 c. ft.)	16,293
(6) Salvage operation of steam snag boat Dehri	10,169

Madaripur Bil Route.

Capital Account.

458. The expenditure (direct charges) debitable to the capital account of the project was Rs. 5,95,252, of which Rs. 4,81,944 represents the outlay on works. This sum was spent chiefly on (1) improvement of the Lower Kumar river at Charmugaria and raising bunds from Futteypur to Takerhat, and (2) widening and deepening the main channel of the route which was in progress during the year. The expenditure incurred on this work during the year was Rs. 4,35,327. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of 1919-20 amounted to Rs. 48,90,059 against the estimate of Rs. 61,19,668, sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The completion report of the project received the approval of the Secretary of State in June 1919. The construction estimate has been closed with effect from the 31st March 1917 and the remaining works are being carried out under the rules governing expenditure chargeable to open capital account.

Financial Results.

459. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were, respectively, Rs. 3,41,688 and Rs. 1,30,192 against Rs. 3,50,251 and Rs. 80,367 in the year 1918-19. The decrease in receipts may be attributed to the decrease in the transport of jute towards Calcutta. The increase in working expenses is due to the expenditure incurred during the year under review on dredging the Lower Kumar river at Charmugaria.

The more important items of expenditure are noted below:—

	Rs.
(1) Dredging the spit in the 33rd mile of the Lower Kumar river ... ... (The dredger *Alexandra* was employed on this work and 2,590,250 c. ft. of earth was dredged at a cost of Rs. 12,973 working out to a rate of Rs. 8·00 per 1,000 c. ft. The work was in progress).	20,136
(2) Repairing the southern embankment along the Madaripur Bil Route and bringing the crest level to the former section from 14th to 17th mile	10,777
(3) Cyclone damage repairs to bungalows and sheds, embankments, and gauges	9,919
(4) Special repairs to the Satpar sluice	3,511

Orissa Coast Canal.

Orissa Coast Canal.

460. This canal which is intended for navigation only lies partly in this Presidency (24·5 miles) and partly in the province of Bihar and Orissa. It has been decided that each Government will deal with the length lying within their territorial limits. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 16,512 and Rs. 10,728 respectively as against Rs. 17,098 and Rs. 9,666 in the previous year.

Gaighatta and Baxi Khal.

Gaighatta and Baxi Khal.

461. The collection of tolls on boat traffic has been leased out for three years from the 15th May 1919 at a rental of Rs. 4,700 per annum. The rent realised from the lessee during the year was, however, Rs. 2,300 as compared with Rs. 1,450 of the previous year. The amount spent on the upkeep of the khal was Rs. 4,220 as compared with Rs. 380 of the previous year. The increase was due to silt clearance of the khal at its mouth near the Damodar river.

Eden Canals.

Eden Canals.

462. The area irrigated from this system of canals was 20,799 acres as compared with 20,539 and 26,439 acres in the two preceding years. As noticed in the last year's report the leases which had lapsed in previous years have only been renewed to a very small extent. The gross revenue derived during the year was Rs. 26,918, as compared with Rs. 22,600 of the preceding year. The expenditure on working expenses amounted to Rs. 38,593 as detailed below:—

	Rs.
New Works	4,996
Maintenance and Repairs	16,084
Establishment	15,745
Tools and Plant	1,768
Total ...	38,593

as compared with Rs. 52,101 in the preceding year. The decrease is mainly due to a smaller expenditure having been incurred in connection with sand dams necessary across the Damodar river at Jujuti and Jhanpur.

Improvement of the Bidyadhari river.

Bidyadhari River.

463. Work in connection with the improvement of the river by creating a spill reservoir for the reception of water during flood tides was in progress during the year. An expenditure of Rs. 6,56,004 was incurred to end of the year against the sanctioned revised estimate of Rs. 8,05,515. The operations already undertaken have proved satisfactory and it is expected that the continuation and extension of the operations will effect further improvement by which the life of the river will probably be prolonged for a number of years.

Investigations.

464. Surveys were continued during the year in connection with projects for mitigating the effects of the Damodar floods including a project for storage reservoirs in the basin of the Damodar and Barakar rivers. The Damodar Irrigation canal project was under revision during the year. The project has lately been submitted to the Government of India.

Floods.

465. In the Damodar river there were altogether twenty-one floods, the highest of which occurred on the 7th Septmeber 1919, when the gauge at Edilpore read 17′ 1″. Flood precautionary measures were strictly enforced and necessary arrangements were made to protect the left bank of the Damodar river. No damage occurred to the left embankment. There were

three floods in the Ajoy river, but no practical damage to works resulted. In the Cossye Division there were several high floods during the year, but no damage of any serious nature occurred.

Anti-malarial projects.

466. Works classified under "Anti-Malarial" which are in charge of the Public Works Department are in reality sanitary drainage schemes undertaken for the purpose of regulating the surface level of fresh water on the land with the object of serving the double purpose of securing the crops and submerging the land to destroy the breeding grounds of the anopheles mosquito. Given suitable regulating works complete control of the water can be secured, so that the surplus is drained away and sufficient is retained to suit the requirements of agriculture. During the year under review the *Banka anti-malarial project* near Burdwan was completed and brought into operation. The *Saraswati project* in the district of Howrah and the *Monikhali and Baragachi projects* in the district of the 24-Parganas were under construction during the year. These works are being carried out at the cost of Government. Of the four works started under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act good progress was made on the *Arul Bil* scheme in the district of Jessore. Work was started on the *Nowi Sunthi Scheme* in the district of the 24-Parganas and fairly good progress was made in excavating the channels of both the Nowi river and the Ichapore khal. Preliminary arrangements were made to start work on the *Amta Scheme* in the district of Howrah and bricks for the outlet sluice were burnt at site. Owing to the paucity of contractors, it was not possible to begin actual construction work in section II of the *Jabuna project* which lies in the districts of 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore. The *Pichabani and Amirabad drainage* projects in the district of Midnapore were under construction. These are being carried out at Government cost as Agricultural Drainage Works.

Surveys and Investigations.

A tidal survey of the lower delta.

467. Tidal levels at various points between the Hooghly and the Meghna continued to be recorded during the year and many hitherto unknown phenomena in the delta have been detected, all of which have a direct bearing on the preservation of the rivers and the disposal of the drainage of the country; a full analysis of the gauge readings has not as yet been made for want of staff and the large amount of work involved.

(1) *Hallifax cut, Jessore district.*—The observations taken during the year indicate that the channel is becoming steady; this fact may be due to alterations which have taken place in the Madhumati river.

(2) *Harihar Mukteswari project, Jessore district.*—Surveys have been completed and estimates are now under preparation.

(3) *Bhairab project, Jessore district.*—Surveys of the first portion have been completed during the year while those for the second portion are in progress.

(4) *Jhenida basin, Jessore district.*—Observations of water levels are being taken.

(5) *Kodla Betna project, Jessore district.*—Surveys are in progress.

(6) *Anjona project, Nadia district.*—The project has been completed and is now under consideration.

(7) *Baltgachi gong project, 24-Parganas.*—Investigations are in progress.

(8) *Rankini Doho, Burdwan district.*—Investigations are still in progress.

(9) *Arapanch project, 24-Parganas.*—The estimate for this project has been sanctioned and work has lately been started.

(10) *Moraganga project 24-Parganas.*—Surveys and investigations were completed during the year.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Nadia Rivers.

468. The approximate length of the channels comprised in the Nadia rivers remained the same as in the previous year. These are as detailed below:—

		Miles.
1.	Faracca channel from the Ganges to Biswanathpur ...	25
2.	Bhagirathi river from the Bhagirathi entrance at Biswanathpur to Nadia	132
3.	Bhairab-Jalangi from entrance to Nadia	163½
4.	Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly ...	136
5.	Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction	32
	Total ...	488½

In addition to the above a length of 10 miles of the river Gorai from its off-take from the Ganges down to Kushtia and the river Ganges from Rajmahal to Goalundo, a distance of 152 miles, are comprised within the charges of the Nadia Rivers Division, but are not included under the head "Nadia Rivers." The Gorai has not been declared under the Canals Act.

No capital account is kept.

The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 13,874 and Rs. 59,898, respectively, as against Rs. 19,950 and Rs. 48,074 in the preceding year.

A brief description of the rivers comprised in the Nadia rivers system is given below.

Bhagirathi river.

469. This river is 157 miles in length from the Faracca off-take down to Nadia, the length below Nadia down to its junction with the river Mathabhanga being known as the Hooghly. The first 25 miles is a *sota* of the Ganges, called the Faracca channel; the next reach of 68 miles from below Biswanathpur to Dadpur is known as the Upper Bhagirathi; and the remaining reach of 64 miles down to Nadia is known as the Lower Bhagirathi. The Lower Bhagirathi is again divided into (*a*) the upper reach from Dadpur to Katwa, and (*b*) the lower reach from Katwa to Nadia. The Bhagirathi is not now used for navigation by steamers with regular services. On the Upper Bhagirathi ordinary boat traffic was maintained throughout the year up to Azimganj and through traffic up to the end of October 1919. On the Lower Bhagirathi the steamer service commenced from the beginning of July 1919 and continued till the middle of October 1919. Boat traffic was maintained throughout the year. Twenty-two shoals with an aggregate length of 64,400 feet were trained as against 23 and 68,000 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

The minimum depth of water in the river at the end of March 1920 was:—

Reach of river.	Least depth of water sounding.						Width of channel.
	1918.		1919.		1920.		
	Ft	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	
Entrance from Ganges ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	More than 25 feet.
Thence to Geria ...	0	3	...	...	...	...	
Geria to Jangipur ...	0	4	...	...	...	...	
Jangipur to Berhampur ...	1	0	1	0	1	0	
Berhampur to Katwa ...	1	3	1	0	1	0	
Katwa to Nadia ...	2	0	1	6	1	0	

Bhairab Jalangi River.

470. This river which takes off from the Ganges about 7 miles below the present Lalgola ghat railway station and falls into the Bhagirathi at Nadia is divided into two parts, viz.:—

(*a*) the Bhairab from the off-take down to Muktearpur.

(*b*) the Jalangi from Muktearpur to Nadia, a distance of 103½ miles.

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No steamers plied on this river during the year, but through boat traffic was maintained throughout the whole length from July to October 1919.

Twenty-four shoals with an aggregate length of 37,340 feet were trained as against 15 and 19,644 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

Mathabhanga river.

471. The Mathabhanga river, which bifurcates from the river Ganges at a point 5 miles above the village Jalangi and falls into the river Hooghly at Chakdah, is divided into two portions. The first portion, called the Upper Mathabhanga river, is 16 miles long and runs from the entrance to Munshiganj. The second portion called the Lower Mathabhanga, runs from Munshiganj to Chakdah.

Fifteen shoals of 22,600 feet against 13 shoals of 21,687 feet of the previous year formed of which only 6 shoals of 7,000 feet were trained against 4 shoals of 3,487 feet of the previous year. The Upper Mathabhanga remained open for through traffic from July to October 1919 while the Lower Mathabhanga was navigable all the year round.

Eight shoals with an aggregate length of 8,650 feet were trained against 6 and 4,787 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

Ganges river between Rajmahal and Goalundo.

472. The training works in connection with the conservancy of the river Ganges were carried out during the year through the agency of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, under Government supervision between Rajmahal and Goalundo, seven shoals were trained as against six in the previous year. The object of training these shoals by means of bandals is to maintain a navigable channel with a 6 feet depth of water. The cost of the season's operations to Government was Rs. 14,241 against Rs. 10,113 in the previous year.

Entrance to the Bhagirathi river from the Ganges.

473. Owing to adverse circumstances no dredging operations were done during the year, but attempts were made to improve the entrance by means of bandalling, which was commenced in the first week of October 1919 and abandoned at the end of November 1919. The operations were not successful. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 8,689 against Rs. 3,482 in the previous season.

Discharge observations.

474. During the year under review discharge observations were taken of the rivers Bhagirathi, Bhairab-Jalangi and Mathabhanga at a cost of Rs. 11,713 for works only against Rs. 10,688 of the previous year. The objects of these observations are (*i*) to determine the various sources from which the Hooghly derives its fresh water supply, and (*ii*) to devise a means of improvement in the general regime of the river.

Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers.

475. The report of the Committee appointed in February 1917 to advise Government on the steps to be taken to carry out systematic observations of the changes in the Nadia rivers, and also, if possible, to improve their conditions as navigable channels and as feeders for the lower Hooghly is still under the consideration of Government. The only outcome of this report so far has been the constitution of a permanent Board with the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, as President, whose duty it will be to examine all important projects concerning either drainage, irrigation, sanitation or transport (by rail, road or waterways) which is likely to restrict the free flow of flood water.

Gorai river.

476. The Gorai takes off from the Ganges about 12 miles below the Hardinge Bridge, at Sara.

The entrance is not stable but of a shifting character. In 1912 the entrance channel changed to its present position and for some years gradually improved with the results that a much larger volume of water entered and passed down to the lower reaches where the river is called the Madhumati. Since the year 1916-17 considerable changes have taken place and a new channel called the Kolarkole has opened out. The latest changes show that the bed of the Gorai for the whole length has altered considerably and became comparatively deeper. The conditions at the entrance have become worse and the depth of water has decreased by about five feet in comparison with the previous year. The Kolarkole channel has silted up.

Floods.

477. There were no floods of an extraordinary character in any of the Nadia rivers during the year.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Ganges river at Rampur Boalia.

478. Training works were carried out in the channel of the river Ganges at Rampur Boalia by means of bandalling operations in order to improve navigation and sanitary conditions and to maintain the water supply of the town. The operations, which were started in the second week of November and closed in May 1920, were successful. The channel was maintained in good condition throughout the year. There was no erosion of the banks of stoppage of steamer traffic. The total amount spent on the operations was Rs. 6,486 towards which the Inland Steamer Companies, the District Board and the Municipality contributed Rs. 3,331.

EASTERN CIRCLE.

Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers.

479. The training works carried out during the year consisted in:—

(*a*) bandalling work in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga with the object of forcing a navigable channel for small steamers and boats and for the maintenance of a supply of drinking water;

(*b*) dredging the Buriganga at Postgolla;

(*c*) spur works in the rvier Buriganga.

The annual bandalling operations were carried out at a cost of Rs. 19,316. Twenty-three shoals were trained, viz., 18 in the Dhaleswari and 5 in the Buriganga. The operations in the Dhaleswari river were successful, while those in the Buriganga were not as satisfactory as was anticipated owing to the rapid silting nature of the river and flow current interfering with the bandals. The four salbulla spurs which were constructed in the previous year at the entrance of the Buriganga and above the off-take at Ati khal were maintained during the year. The Ati channel has deepened and widened. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 8,215, including Rs. 4,891 spent on the re-erection, etc., of the spurs damaged by the cyclone of September 1919.

The shoal at Postgolla on the Buriganga river was operated on by the dredger *Alph* of the India General Navigation and Railway Company. The channel dredged was 120 feet in width and the depth of water attained after dredging was 18 feet below low water level.

Investigations.

480. The navigation projects prepared by Rai S. N. Banarji Bahadur, Executive Engineer, were under consideration during the year.

Embankment and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Works for 1919-20.]

Expenditure.

481. The expenditure on embankments, including charges for establishment and tools and plant, was Rs. 10,40,711 while that on drainage works amounted to Rs. 3,11,280.

Length of Embankments.

482. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government was 1,357 miles and 366 feet, as in the previous year.

Floods and Breaches.

483. There was no high flood in any of the rivers except in the Cossye. The highest gauge reading of this river at Mohanpur was 88·50 on 8th August 1919, against the maximum recorded reading of 94·50 of the 7th September 1907. With the exception of two breaches in the Cossye left embankment which took place in the Panskura subdivision and partially damaged the standing rice crops on the inundated areas, no breaches or other damage to embankments occurred during the year.

In the Damodar river there were altogether 21 floods, the highest of which occurred on 7th September 1919, the gauge reading at Edilpur being 17 feet 1 inch, against the highest recorded flood of 20 feet 1 inch on 8th August 1903. The flood precautionary measures were very strictly enforced and effective arrangements were made to protect the left bank of the Damodar river during the period of high floods by employing a special labour force and messenger peons and stocking repair materials at selected centres.

The floods were comparatively low and no breach occurred anywhere in the Damodar left embankment.

In the Ajai river there were only three floods during the year, the highest of which was on the 14th July 1919, the gauge reading at Maliara being 19 feet 3 inches. Practically no damage occurred to the crops for the reason that a very small quantity of flood water passed through the breaches in the zamindari embankment from Sagarputul to Buxi Bazar. The breach at Sagarputul was closed before the rains and the country was thus protected from moderate floods.

In the Northern Circle the floods in the river Ganges were unusually high and remained above R. L. 60·00 at Rampur Boalia for two weeks. The Municipal Ring bund at Bosuri was overtopped and breached in several places; sluice No. 4 on the embankment No. 56 B was washed away on the 13th September 1919. The breaches have been filled up and the question of reconstructing the washed-out sluice is still under consideration.

Surveys.

484. The survey of the inundated area of the Damodar river, which had been started in the previous year, was practically completed during the year.

The survey of the Tamluk and Mahisadal basins was in progress and nearly three-fourths of the work was completed. A special Survey for taking fresh sections of the Selye left and right embankments to ascertain whether the crest requires raising was started and completed during the year.

The Survey for improvement of the drainage area of the Bar Harisingpur sluice in the 7th mile of the Shaikpur Circuit embankment was started and completed during the year.

The Survey of the Dunia and Barunda basins was completed during the year except the borings which could not be done for want of the necessary appliances.

Contour Surveys in the districts of Murshidabad and Birbhum were still in progress during the year.

Works undertaken under (a) the Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

485. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Barajolla Drainage works were efficiently maintained at a cost of Rs. 18,642 as against an average of Rs. 11,300 which has been fixed for their maintenance. The Khagra supply channel in connection with the Bistupur Bil was also maintained at a cost of Rs. 3,850, and the Gobra Nala at a cost of Rs. 1,626.

The work in connection with the improvement of the Bidyadhari river, by creating a spill reservoir for the flood tides, was in progress and an expenditure of Rs. 2,48,122 was incurred during the year.

(b) The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VII of 1895.

486. A review of the anti-malarial projects taken up and investigated during the year has already been given in paragraph 23 of the Irrigation and Navigation Annual Administration Report of the year and is not recapitulated here.

During the year under review the Banka anti-malarial project near Burdwan was completed and brought into operation. The Saraswati project in the district of Howrah and the Monikhali and Baragachi projects in the district of the 24-Parganas were under construction. These works are being carried out at the cost of Government. Of the four works started under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act, namely, Arun Bil scheme, Nowi and Sunthi schemes, Jaboona project and Amta project, good progress was made on the Arun Bil scheme. The Pechaboni and Amirabad drainage projects, which are also being carried out at the cost of Government, were under construction during the year.

(c) The Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

487. The work of constructing a sluice at Mellock in the district of Howrah was in progress and was practically completed during the year, the expenditure incurred being Rs. 22,652.

The projects in connection with the conservancy of the rivers Dhaleswari and Buriganga and the improvement of the drainage conditions within the area lying between the Dhaleswari and the Padma rivers are still under examination.

A large number of sluices in Schedule D embankments were efficiently maintained at the cost of the estates benefited.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

Gross revenue.

488. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1919-20 as compared with that of 1918-19:—

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Receipts.	1918-19.			1919-20.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
Principal heads of Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Land Revenue ...	1,37,34	1,67,97	3,05,31	1,30,99	1,70,04	3,01,03
II. Opium	4,30,72	...	4,30,72	3,98,07	...	3,98,07
III. Salt	1,11,78	...	1,11,78	1,38,59	...	1,38,59
IV. Stamps	1,24,83	1,24,83	2,49,66	1,50,29	1,50,29	3,00,58
V. Excise	...	1,76,64	1,76,64	...	1,81,49	1,81,49
VI. Provincial rates ...	...	1,12	1,12	...	1,12	1,12
VII. Customs	7,60,72	...	7,60,72	10,18,03	...	10,18,03
VIII. Income-tax ...	2,38,83	1,12,01	3,50,84	7,77,58	1,73,69	9,51,27
IX Forest	...	19,44	19,44	...	20,51	20,51
X Registration ...	...	19,18	19,18	...	25,57	25,57
XI. Tributes	68	...	68	68	...	68
Total ...	18,04,90	6,21,19	24,26,09	26,14,23	7,22,71	33,36,94
XII. Interest	11,67	5,62	17,29	11,12	6,12	17,24
Receipts by Civil Department—						
XVIA. Law and Justice—Court	...	11,24	11,24	...	12,94	12,94
XVIB. Ditto —Jails	...	14,77	14,77	...	14,98	14,98
XVII. Police	...	2,52	2,52	...	2,85	2,85
XVIII. Ports and Pilotage ...	...	12,37	12,37	...	12,89	12,89
XIX. Education ...	...	9,83	9,83	...	9,96	9,96
XXA. Medical	...	4,16	4,16	...	4,26	4,26
XXB. Sanitation ...	...	6	6	...	61	61
XXIA Agriculture ...	...	1,68	1,68	...	2,03	2,03
XXIB. Scientific and Miscellaneous, etc.		13,64	13,64	...	20,16	20,16
Total ...	...	70,27	70,27	...	80,68	80,68
Miscellaneous—						
XXII. Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,82	65	2,47	1,86	55	2,41
XXIII. Stationery and Printing	...	1,73	1,73	...	1,93	1,93
XXV. Miscellaneous ...	4,45	6,07	10,52	4,44	6,86	11,30
Total ...	6,27	8,45	14,72	6,30	9,34	15,64
Irrigation—						
XXIX. Major Works (Direct Receipts).	1,52	1,52	3,04	1,60	1,60	3,20
XXX. Minor Works and Navigation—						
Civil ...	25	25	50	29	29	58
Public Works Department.	4,74	4,74	9,48	4,31	4,31	8,62
Total ...	6,51	6,51	13,02	6,20	6,20	12,40
Building and Roads —						
XXXI. Civil Works—						
Civil	...	1,39	1,39	...	1,41	1,41
Public Works Department.	1,15	8,40	9,55	1,38	5,69	7,07
Total ...	1,15	9,79	10,94	1,38	7,10	8,48
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.	−17,17	+17,17	...	−23,61	+23,61	...
Grand Total ...	18,13,33	7,39,00	25,52,33	26,15,62	8,55,76	34,71,38

The variations are explained in the entries on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Imperial receipts.

489. The following statement shows the Imperial Receipts in 1919-20 as compared with those of 1918-19:—

Major Heads.	1918-19	1919-20.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I Land Revenue	1,37,33,519	1,30,99,434	...	6,34,085
II Opium	4,30,72,271	3,98,06,646	...	32,65,625
III Salt	1,11,77,530	1,38,59,449	26,81,919	...
IV Stamps	1,24,82,625	1,50,28,942	25,46,317	...
VII Customs	7,60,72,157	10,18,03,335	2,57,31,178	...
VIII Income-tax	2,38,83,319	7,77,57,534	5,38,74,215	...
XI Tributes	67,701	67,701	...	...
XII Interest	11,67,282	11,11,741	...	55,541
XXII Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,81,657	1,85,569	3,912	...
XXV Miscellaneous	4,45,378	4,44,120	...	1,258
XXIX Minor Works Direct Receipts P. W.	1,52,437	1,59,604	7,167	...
XXX Minor Works and Navigation	24,941	29,130	4,189	...
XXX Minor Works P. W. ...	4,73,988	4,31,233	...	42,755
XXXI Civil Works P. W. ...	1,15,112	1,38,009	22,897	...
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.	- 17,16,730	- 23,61,296	- 6,44,566	...
Total ...	18,13,33,187	26,15,61,151	8,42,27,228	39,99,264

The important variations in the above table are mainly due to the following causes:—*Land Revenue*—Lesser recoveries on account of survey charges. *Opium*—Reduced sale of morphia in England. *Salt*—Larger exportation due to improvement in tonnage on the termination of the war. *Stamps*—Commercial activity chiefly in Calcutta. *Customs*—Greater trade activity on account of cessation of hostilities. *Income-tax*—Mainly due to increased revenue from excess profits duty. *Interests*—The decrease is due to gradual repayment of the principal of the Kidderpore Dock Loan. *Irrigation—Minor Works (P.W.)*—Diminution of the area under lease in which water rates are realised. *Civil Works (P.W.)*—Increase is mainly from rents of Imperial buildings.

Imperial expenditure.

490. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1919-20 as compared with that of 1918-19:—

Major Heads.	1918-19.	1919-20.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	24,49,226	45,54,485	21,05,259	...
2. Assignments and Compensations	1,00,178	1,05,465	5,287	...
3. Land Revenue	19,49,753	18,32,241	...	1,17,512
4. Opium	33,383	32,399	...	984
5. Salt	2,71,632	2,75,212	3,580	...
6. Stamps	3,36,265	371,514	35,249	...
9. Customs	13,85,874	13,94,796	8 922	...
10. Income-tax	1,08,089	1,50,700	42,611	...
14. Interest on other obligations ...	2,56,665	3,63,607	1,06,942	...
18. General Administration ...	5,16,769	5,10,845	...	5,924
23. Ecclesiastical	1,92,408	1,82,568	...	9,840
25. Political	5,184	3,520	...	1,664
26B Scientific and Miscellaneous Department.	2,150	2,720	570	...
27. Territorial and Political Pension allowance.	6,93,011	6,09,984	...	83,027
28. Civil Furlough and absentee allowance.	419	950	531	...
29. Superannuation	71 515	73,011	1,496	...
30. Stationery and Printing ...	1,34,921	1,05,495	...	29,426
32. Miscellaneous	2,13,682	1,06,298	...	1,07,384
33. Famine Relief	26,033	9,44,726	9,18,693	...
35. Protective Irrigation Works ...	3,558	1,711	...	1,847
42. Major Works—				
Interest on debt	2,03,568	1,99,294	...	4,274
Working expenses ...	1,15,542	1,05,512	...	10,030
43. Minor Works and Navigation—				
Civil	946	1,031	85	...
Public Works	12,95,088	15,96,463	3,01,375	...
45. Civil Works—				
Civil	5,000	5,000	...	...
Public Works	11,92,988	13,13,731	1,19,743	...
Total ...	1,15,63,847	1,48,42,278	36,50,343	3,71,912

The principle fluctuations are explained as follows:—*Refunds and Drawbacks*—The increase is mainly due to drawbacks on account of Java sugar re-exported to Europe. *3. Land Revenue*—Curtailment of programme of Imperial Survey party. *6. Stamps*—Larger expenditure in discount on sale of general stamps due to business activity mainly in Calcutta. *10. Income-tax*—Is due to increase of establishment in the office of the Collector of Income-tax, Calcutta. *14. Interest on other obligations*—Enhanced rate of interest on Provident Funds. *27. Territorial and Political pension*—The decrease is due to death of certain pensioners. *30. Stationery and Printing*—Smaller expenditure on account of papers supplied from Central Stores. *32. Miscellaneous*—Discontinuance of the levy of the increased rates on the remittance of notes and coins. *33. Famine Relief*—The large expenditure is mainly due to the relief of distress caused by cyclone in Eastern Bengal. *43. Minor Works (P.W.)*—Larger expenditure on works on the Calcutta, Eastern Canals and Madaripur Bil route. *45. Civil Works (P.W.)*—Increased expenditure on original work and repairs.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Revenue from Customs.

491. The gross revenue from customs (inclusive of 3·26 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported into Calcutta) amounted to Rs. 11,16,61,000 against Rs. 8,42,83,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 38,72,000 against Rs. 27,66,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 10,77,89,000, representing an increase of a little over 32 per cent. on the previous year's figures.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 727·04 lakhs, of which Rs. 126·55 lakhs (including inland collections) were yielded by salt, and Rs. 206·06 lakhs by cotton goods. The export duty collections rose from Rs. 251·70 lakhs to Rs. 389·57, the excess being mainly contributed by jute (Rs. 76·48 lakhs) and by the new duty on hides and skins, which added Rs. 58·95 lakhs to the revenue.

Net Revenue.

492. The net revenue of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 10,65,77,300 against Rs. 8,09,42,849 in the previous year, representing an increase of a little more than 31 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports advanced from Rs. 22·35 lakhs to Rs. 31·22, owing to the great improvement in export duty.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

493. The number of cases dealt with under the Sea Customs Act was 610 against 422 in the previous year. Of these as many as 160 cases arose out of notices issued under section 32 of the Act, as compared with 59 in the previous year. In 20 cases the goods were taken over for the use of Government, and the profits of their disposal in 10 cases amounted to Rs. 3,975. In addition, 174 cases of misdeclaration of goods were detected, the penalties imposed amounting to Rs. 1,056.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

494. There were altogether 708 cases of infringement under the Merchandise Marks Act during the year against 745 in the previous year. Of these, 518 related to false trade description and 124 were in respect of piece-goods on which lengths were not properly stamped. The penalties imposed under this Act amounted to Rs. 14,179 as against Rs. 17,484 in the previous year.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report for the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*), Finance and Revenue accounts.]

Administration.

495. There was an increase in the operations under the salt credit system. Securities to the extent of Rs. 76,33,025 were deposited during the year, as compared with Rs. 72,83,000 in 1918-19. The amount of duty debited during the year under the system was Rs. 1,09,48,287 against Rs. 1,03,64,573 in the previous year. There were 59 depositers during the year against 50 in 1918-19, and none of them closed their accounts.

Manufacture of Salt in Bengal.

496. A license to manufacture salt at Samudrapur in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district was granted to a Company in Calcutta. Machinery has been set up, but owing to difficulty in obtaining supplies of fresh water in the locality the Company was unable to start manufacture during the year.

Imports.

497. The total imports to Calcutta increased by 18·2 per cent. and those to Chittagong decreased by 49·5 per cent. There was a large increase in all qualities of salt imported to Calcutta, with the exception of Port Said salt. There were no imports to Chittagong from the United Kingdom, except table salt in bottles.

Consumption and prices.

498. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in this Presidency during the year was 7,812,788 maunds; but out of the total figures

3,843,550 maunds were exported to other provinces by rail, road and river (inclusive of 202 maunds educed from saltpetre and 7,918 maunds issued free of duty for commercial purposes). The average wholesale price per maund of salt, inclusive of duty, was 4 annas 8 pies lower than in the previous year. It is reported that since April 1919, the prices ruling in the market were the maximum prices fixed by Government; these were reduced from 1st January 1920 by Rs. 30 per 100 maunds. All through the year the prices of Kurkatch salt were 4 or 5 rupees below those of crushed salt. The average wholesale price per 100 maunds of Liverpool salt was Rs. 172-2-5, as against Rs. 186-13-4 in the previous year.

Financial results.

499. As compared with 1918-19 the receipts show an increase by Rs. 26,81,919 or 24·0 per cent. and the charges by Rs. 15,269 or 4·5 per cent. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 1,35,07,486, which was larger than that of the previous year by Rs. 26,66,650 or 24·6 per cent.

Trade in Saltpetre.

500. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement of saltpetre was 275 maunds, as compared with 547 maunds in 1918-19, and the quantity of *sitta* (impure salt) left in the course of refinement was 126 maunds against 78 maunds in the previous year. Two hundred and two maunds of educed salt were sold during the year, as compared with 568 maunds in 1918-19.

[The Report on the administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part IV (b)-Finance and Revenue.]

Excise Licensing Board and Advisory Committees.

501. The system of Licensing Boards in Calcutta and the neighbouring municipalities and of Advisory Committees throughout the districts remained in force. The Calcutta Licensing Board changed the sites of two foreign liquor shops, one restaurant, one ganja and one bhang-shop and granted one new retail foreign liquor license and one restaurant license. No other change was made by any of the Licensing Boards either in the number or in the location of the existing shops. The recommendations of the Advisory Committees were carefully considered and mostly given effect to. In accordance with these recommendations three country spirit shops, three tari shops and two pachwai shops were abolished, the sites of fourteen country spirit shops, one foreign liquor shop, six tari shops, ten pachwai shops, four ganja shops, one bhang shop and two opium shops were changed, and three country spirit shops, one foreign liquor shop, three tari shops, five pachwai shops, two ganja shops, six bhang shops and four opium shops were newly opened.

Revenue.

502. The total excise revenue showed an increase of Rs. 4,70,202, being Rs. 1,81,08,448 against Rs. 1,76,38,246. The heads which showed an increase were country spirit (Rs. 2,64,841), hemp drugs (Rs. 1,93,534), opium (Rs. 1,11,491), wines and spirits (Rs. 91,660) and tari (Rs. 3,826). The most noteworthy increase is in the revenue derived from country spirit. This occurred in spite of a heavy drop in consumption and was due to the levy of enhanced duty throughout the year. There were large decreases under "pachwai" (Rs. 1,72,348) and commercial spirits including medicated wines (Rs. 25,587). The net result was that the incidence of excise revenue rose from 6 annas 2 pies in the previous year to 6 annas 4 pies.

Country spirit.

503. The system of contract supply was the only system in force in this Presidncy during the year. The fixed-fee system of settlement of country spirit shops was in force in the districts of Calcutta, Midnapore, Howrah and 24-Parganas and in the Sadar and Serampore subdivisions of Hooghly. The system has been introduced from the 1st April 1920 in the districts of Burdwan, Dacca, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling. The introduction of the system was followed by a considerable decrease in consumption, due partly to high prices of foodstuffs and other necessaries and partly to the reduction in the earnings of mill hands owing to short-time working. There was a reduction of 27 in the number of shops, and consumption decreased by 33,277 proof gallons. This decrease of consumption

occurred mainly in Calcutta. The only other districts in which the reduction exceeded 10 per cent. were 24-Parganas (18,482 proof gallons), Jalpaiguri (8,335 proof gallons) and Howrah (1,976 proof gallons). Consumption increased in 20 districts. The progressive efficiency of the department in checking illicit distillation, dilution and other malpractices has naturally the effect of showing an increased consumption of licit spirit in many districts, and the high prices of foreign liquor have also contributed to the increase.

The revenue derived from duty and distillery fees increased by Rs. 4,51,037 and that from license fees decreased by Rs. 1,86,196, the result being a net increase of Rs. 2,64,841 under country spirit.

Tari. 504. The tree-tax system, which was introduced in 1918-19 in the Sadar and Serampore subdivisions of the Hooghly district and the whole of the Howrah district (with the exception of the areas included in Calcutta), continued in the same areas with varying results during the year. The system undoubtedly exercised a check over illicit manufacture of tari from unmarked trees and upon unrestricted drinking. The fermented tari revenue of the Hooghly district increased by Rs. 15,374 as a result of the tree-tax. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of fermented and fresh tari decreased from 2,401 to 2,068, but the total receipts increased from Rs. 5,16,138 to Rs. 5,19,964.

Pachwai. 505. Owing to the large increase in the price of rice it was found advisable to introduce during the year a fixed-fee system of pachwai revenue in lieu of the ordinary auction system in the Asansol subdivision of the Burdwan district, where there are a large number of pachwai shops, in order to safeguard the Government revenue and to give some relief to the vendors. The total number of licenses issued was 35,367 as compared with 31,896 in 1918-19. The revenue from retail license fees decreased from Rs. 9,75,731 to Rs. 7,98,938, or by Rs. 1,76,793. The decrease was considerable in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Murshidabad, and was mainly due to the bad circumstances of the consumers and to the high price of rice from which pachwai is manufactured.

Foreign Liquor. 506. The total number of licenses issued for the wholesale and retail vend of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines and rectified spirits, was 597 against 602 in the preceding year. The total receipts from license-fees amounted to Rs. 3,01,869 against Rs. 2,95,665 in 1918-19. The receipts from duty on Indian-made "foreign liquor" were Rs. 8,82,456 against Rs. 7,97,000 in the preceding year.

Ganja. 507. The total number of licenses issued in the Presidency for the retail sale of *ganja* was 1,263 as compared with 1,265 in 1918-19. The revenue from license fees increased by Rs. 1,22,618 and that from duty by Rs. 45,245. There was an increase of 76 maunds in the quantity of *ganja* consumed, the figures being 2,052 maunds against 1,976 maunds in 1918-19. The increase exceeded 10 per cent in Jessore, Nadia, Birbhum, Noakhali and Calcutta. The incidence of license-fees per seer of *ganja* consumed was Rs. 23·9 and that of duty Rs. 20. The total taxation was Rs. 43·9 per seer as compared with Rs. 43·3 in the previous year.

Bhang. 508. The total consumption of *bhang* within the Presidency amounted to 724 maunds 19 seers against 641 maunds 18 seers in the previous year. The total revenue both from license-fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,61,477 as compared with Rs. 1,43,476 in 1918-19.

Charas. 509. The total number of retail licenses for the sale of *charas* was 29 against 30 in the preceding year, and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 78,039 as compared with Rs. 69,715 in 1918-19. The receipts from license-fees increased by Rs. 4,453 and those for duty by Rs. 3,871.

Opium. 510. The system under which the issue of excise opium to retail shops is restricted to the estimated local demand continued in Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, the 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Khulna, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Chittagong, Noakhali, Tippera and Jalpaiguri and in a few shops in Burdwan, Nadia, Jessore, Darjeeling, Mymensingh, Murshidabad and Rajshahi. It was not found necessary to extend the system to any further areas during the year. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium

was 828 as compared with 820 in the previous year. The most noticeable increase occurred in the 24-Parganas, where six new shops were opened, chiefly in the Sunderbans area of the district, where new settlements had grown up, and it was found necessary to meet the demand. The consumption of opium increased by 10 maunds 29 seers, the figures being 1,038 maunds 5 seers against 1,027 maunds 16 seers in the previous year. The largest increases occurred in Bankura, Tippera, Rangpur, Khulna, Bakarganj, Howrah, Noakhali and 24-Parganas. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 32,48,820 against Rs. 31,37,329 in 1918-19, showing an increase of Rs. 1,11,491, which occurred mostly under the head of license-fees.

Cocaine.

511. The total number of licenses issued to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine was 287 against 252 in 1918-19, while the license-fees realised amounted to Rs. 307 as compared with Rs. 267 in 1918-19. Thirty-five permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision, *viz*, fourteen for tea-gardens in Jalpaiguri, seven for charitable dispensaries in Midnapore, three in each of the districts of the 24-Parganas and Tippera, two each in Calcutta and Nadia and one each in Burdwan, Khulna, Faridpur and Noakhali. Twenty permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists in Calcutta, twelve in Burdwan, four in Chittagong, three in each of the districts of the 24-Parganas and Faridpur, two each in Midnapore and Dinajpur and one each in Howrah and Noakhali, for the possession and use of the drug in the course of their practice. One permit was issued in Burdwan to the Superintendent of the Raniganj Leper Asylum. The abuse of cocaine continues in Calcutta and in the neighbouring parts of the 24-Parganas and also in the Serampore Subdivision of the Hooghly district. Arrests for illicit possession of cocaine increased by 91. Excise officers seized 395 ounces of cocaine as compared with 136 ounces in 1918-19, while Customs officers seized 123 ounces against 201 ounces in the previous year. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 33 lbs 3 ounces and $29\frac{7}{8}$ grains against 23 lbs. and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce in 1918-19.

Excise offences.

512. The total number of persons arrested on charges under the excise and opium laws during the year was 6,651 as compared with 6,637 in the previous year, and 6,038 persons were convicted against 5,965 in 1918-19.

STAMPS.

[Stamp Administration Report for the three years ending the 31st March 1920. Statistics of British India, Part IV-(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue.

513. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Act amounted to Rs. 3,13,15,702, an increase over those of 1918-19 of Rs. 53,84,122, or 20·7 per cent. This increase occurred both under judicial and non-judicial stamps. The charges during the year amounted to Rs. 7,29,600 against Rs. 5,73,767 in 1918-19.

Judicial stamps.

514. The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose from Rs. 1,66,78,415 in 1918-19 to Rs. 1,78,21,873. The increase was shared by all the Divisions. The largest increase, Rs. 6,02,747, was contributed by the Presidency Division owing, it is reported to the increase in litigation and to the commencement of settlement operations in Nadia, Murshidabad and Jessore.

Non-judicial stamps.

515. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 82,07,359 in 1918-19 to Rs. 1,23,78,741 in 1919-20, showing an increase of Rs. 41,71,382, or 50·8 per cent., which was shared by all the Divisions. The increase was largest in the Presidency Division, viz., Rs. 32,85,249, of which Rs. 29,99,935 was contributed by Calcutta alone. The receipts for the Burdwan, Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions rose by Rs. 2,77,253, Rs. 2,59,732, Rs. 1,75,269 and Rs. 1,73,879, respectively.

Sale of stamps.

516. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year 1919-20 was 5,235 against 5,234 in 1918-19, and the amount of discount

allowed to such vendors rose from Rs. 3,59,744 in 1918-19 to Rs. 4,42,148 in 1919-20.

Deficient duty.

517. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 during the year fell from 2,128 in 1918-19 to 1,891, and the amount of duty and penalty realized from Rs. 13,946 to Rs. 12,853. The total number of cases decided by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act rose from 2,897 in 1918-19 to 3,430, and the amount of duty and penalty realized in such cases from Rs. 71,330 to Rs. 79,546, the bulk of the increase being contributed by Calcutta.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

518. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 346 in 1919-20 against 219 in the previous year, while 375 persons were brought to trial and 336 persons convicted against 242 and 232 respectively in the previous year. The fines imposed rose from Rs. 2,227 in 1918-19 to Rs. 2,644. The amount of rewards paid to informers was Rs. 841, as compared with Rs. 1,295 in the previous year.

Working of section 19H. of the Court Fees Act.

519. Of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probate and letters of administration reported during 1919-20, including those pending at the beginning of the vear, 58·6 per cent. were completely enquired into against 63·9 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage borne by the deficit duty required to the amount originally realized was 11·7 against 12·9 per cent. in the previous year.

INCOME-TAX.

[Report on the administration of the Income-Tax Department during the triennium ending 31st March 1920. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Financial result.

520. The receipts, charges and net revenue under the head "Income-tax" during the year 1919-20 were Rs. 3,40,84,589, Rs. 2,48,294 and Rs. 3,38,36,295, respectively.

Notwithstanding the relief afforded by the Income-tax Amendment Act (IV of 1919), which came into force from the 1st April 1919 and which exempted from the operation of the Income-tax Act incomes below Rs. 2,000 per annum, there was an increase of Rs. 1,25,43,192 in the net revenue of the year under report over that of 1918-19. The increase was wholly contributed by Calcutta, and was due in a great measure (1) to the high profits earned by jute mills, (2) to the assessment of one hundred new companies for the first time during the year 1919-20, (3) to the system of assessment at a rate determined by the total income of an assessee, as introduced by Act VII of 1918, (4) to the adjustment procedure under section 19 and (5) to new assessments under section 25 of incomes which accrued in the previous year, but escaped taxation that year.

Collection.

521. The total collections made on account of the demand for the year 1919-20 were Rs. 2,81,66,019, as compared with Rs. 1,92,53,494 in 1918-19, showing an increase of Rs. 89,12,525. In Calcutta the amount of tax collected on the assessments made in 1919-20 showed an increase of a little over 93½ lakhs, as compared with 1918-19.

Assessment.

522. The total number of persons finally assessed by district officers in 1919-20 amounted to 33,261, as compared with 65,053 in 1918-19. This decrease is due to the exemption allowed under the amending Act IV of 1919.

Incidence of tax.

523. Only one person in 2,930 of the population outside Calcutta paid income-tax, and the average amount paid by each assessee was Rs. 164. In Calcutta, which for income-tax purposes includes the town of Howrah, the proportion was one person in 67 of the population, and the average tax paid was Rs. 1,735.

Supertax.

524. The total net collections of super-tax under Act VIII of 1917 during the year 1919-20 were Rs. 87,29,301 against Rs. 1,27,65,653 in 1918-19. The decrease was due to the introduction of the Excess Profits Duty Act of 1919, which provided that excess profits duty and super-tax were to be alternately chargeable.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report.—Forests.]

C.—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Receipts and expenditure.

525. The following statements shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1919-20 as compared with those of 1918-19 :—

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1918 19.	1919-20.		1918-19.	1919-20.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance ...	3,67,65	3,72,00	1 —Refunds and drawbacks	2,29	6,07
I.—Land Revenue ...	1,67,97	1,70,04	2 —Assignments and compensations	1,39	1,49
IV.—Stamps ...	1,24,83	1,50,29	3.—Land Revenue ...	38.21	39,15
V.—Excise ...	1,76,64	1,81,49	6.—Stamps ...	3,36	3,72
VI.—Provincial rates ...	1,12	1,12	7 —Excise	10,58	11,63
VIII.—Income-tax ...	1,12,01	1,73,69	10.—Income-tax ...	98	1,16
IX.—Forest ...	19,44	20.51	11.—Forest ...	8,26	9,72
X.—Registration ...	19,18	25,57	12.—Registration ...	11,34	12,94
XII.—Interest ...	5,62	6,12	13.—Interest on ordinary debt.	4,56	5,10
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	11,24	12,94	18.—General Administration	25,93	27,91
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails ...	14,77	14,98	19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	1,04,01	1,07,07
XVII.—Police ...	2,52	2,85	19B.—Law and Justice—Jails	37,82	38,28
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage ...	12,37	12,89	20.—Police	1,32,25	1,43,52
XIX.—Education ...	9,83	9,96	21 —Ports and Pilotage ...	12,86	27,42
XXA.—Medical ...	4,16	4,26	22.—Education ...	86.12	98.20
XXB.—Sanitation ...	6	61	24A.—Medical	29,01	30,18
XXIA.—Agriculture ...	1,68	2,03	24B.—Sanitation	7,71	14,12
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous.	13,64	20,16	25.—Political	2,87	37
XXII.—Receipts in-aid of superannuation.	65	55	26A.—Agriculture ...	14,26	16,29
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	1,73	1,93	26B.—Scientific and Miscellaneous.	25,48	8,03
XXV.—Miscellaneous receipts—Public Works.	6,07	6,86	29.—Superannuation ...	34,96	36,72
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts).	1,52	1,60	30.—Stationery ...	13,74	17,36
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—Civil.	25	29	32.—Miscellaneous ...	6,94	4,69
Public Works ...	4.74	4,31	33.—Famine Relief ...	8	3,15
XXXI.—Civil Works—Civil ...	1,39	1,41	42.—Major Works—Working Expenses ...	1,16	1,06
Public Works ...	8,40	5,69	Interest on debt ...	1,75	1,71
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.	17,17	23,61	43.—Major Works—By Public Works Department.	12,95	15,96
			By Civil	1	1
			45.—Civil Works—Public Works Department.	92,34	1,00,51
			Civil	11,42	11,80
Total ...	7,39,00	8,55,76	Total ...	7,34,64	7,95,34
			Closing balance ...	3,72,01	4,32,42
Grand Total ...	11,06,65	12,27,76	Grand Total ...	11,06,65	12,27,76

Receipts.

526. Better collections from Government estates account mainly for the increase under the head *Land Revenue*. The variations under the heads *Stamps*, *Income-tax* and *Irrigation*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section under *Imperial Finance*. The increase under *Excise* is mainly due to larger consumption of spirits and liquors manufactured after European methods. Under *Forests* the improvement is due to larger sales of timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency. The increase under *Registration* is due to rise in prices, the scarcity in certain districts and the devastation caused by the recent cyclone in Eastern Bengal which led to borrowing in the mufassil and to speculation in house property in Calcutta. *Interest*—Larger advance made to agriculturists in the Tippera and Bankura district and in Eastern Bengal districts, which were swept by the cyclone, mainly caused an increase under the head *Interest*. The increase under *Law and Justice*: *Courts of Law*, is due to larger magisterial fees received during 1919-20 and larger recoveries made by the Administrator-General. *Law and Justice*: *Jails*—The small increase is mainly due to the high prices obtained for most of the articles of jail manufacture, especially for cotton goods, mustard-oil and castor-oil. *Police*—Owing to the rapid increase in motor traffic there was an increase in fees under the Motor Vehicles Act. This, together with the fees realised under the new Arms Act, account for the increase in revenue. *Sanitation*—The increase is chiefly due to the receipt of an anonymous donation of Rs. 50,000 for expenditure on sanitation. Owing to better receipts from agricultural farms there was an increase under the head *Agriculture*. *Scientific Department*—Larger supply of quinine to the Lahore Medical Store for the Frontier campaign, and the realisation of fees for registering a number of new companies started on the revival of trade account mainly for the increase under this head. Owing to the renewed publication by the Collector of Customs of various periodicals, which were not issued during the war, there was an increase under the head *Stationery and Printing*. *Miscellaneous*—The increase has been constituted partly by unclaimed deposits and partly by fees for Government audit and recoveries of service payments of previous year. *Civil Works* (*Public Works Department*)—The actuals of 1918-19 included Rs. 3,00,000 on account of sale-proceeds of Police Hospital. The absence of any such abnormal revenue accounts for the decrease in 1919-20.

Expenditure.

527. The large increase under " Refunds and Drawbacks " is mainly due to refunds, by way of adjustment under section 19 of the Income Tax Act.

Owing to the reversion to civil duty of officers on deputation to military duty on the cessation of hostilities there was an increase in expenditure under the head " 3.—Land Revenue." The variations under " Stamps—Income Tax," " Famine Relief " and " 43.—Minor Works," which are divided heads, have been explained in the section under Imperial finances. The increase under the heads " Excise " and " Registration " is mainly due to revision of establishments, while the increase under " Forest " is not only due to a similar cause, but also due to the improvement and extension of forests and to the revision of pay of officers. The larger amount of agricultural loans distributed in the Tippera and Bankura districts and in Eastern Bengal districts account for the increase under the head " Interest on ordinary debt." The increase under the heads " General Administration " and " Law and Justice—Courts of Law " is partly due to leave allowances of certain officers paid in India and partly to increase in the pay of the Band and Body Guard of His Excellency the Governor under the former head and to higher contingent and process-serving charges under the latter. The increase under the head " Jails " was due to a rise in the cost of diet and price of clothing, while the increase under " Police ' is due partly to similar causes and partly to larger expenditure under contingencies and expenditure on repairs to police-stations damaged by the cyclone. A grant of Rs. 12,75,000 to the Chittagong Port Fund is mainly responsible for the increase under " Ports and Pilotage." The increase under " Education " is on account of payment of larger grants-in-aid and also to an expenditure of Rs. 1,20,000 on account of the Dacca University. Rise in prices of diet,

clothing and bedding and also the enhanced pay of the Indian Medical Service officers account for the increase under "Medical." The full complement of officers and larger grants for sanitary purposes are chiefly responsible for the increase under "Sanitation." The decrease under "25—Political" is due to the fact, that the maintenance charge of *détenus* were recorded in the accounts of 1919-20 under "32—Miscellaneous," instead of under this head as in former years. The increase in establishment and in contingent charges account for the increase under "26 A—Agriculture." A large quantity of quinine was purchased in 1918-19. The absence of any such abnormal expenditure accounts for the decrease under the head "26 B.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments" in 1919-20. The increase under "29—Superannuation" is partly due to the growth of pensionary charges and partly to the enhanced rate of pension sanctioned for certain gazetted officers, while the increase under "Stationery and Printing" is mainly due to larger supply of stationery from the Central Stores to the Press and Forms Department.

The decrease under "Miscellaneous" occurred mainly under irrecoverable temporary loans written off. Larger grants to local bodies led to the increase under "Civil Works—Civil." The increase under "Civil Works—Public Works Department" is mainly due to the widening of the Chowringhee Road, Calcutta, and to larger expenditure on repairs to civil buildings and communications damaged by the cyclone of 1919-20.

Local Funds.

528. The table below shows the actual receipt and charges and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the province for the year 1919-20 :— Balance.

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Fund ...	36,46,035	1,29,06,355	1,65,52,390	1,31,10,723	34,41,667
District Road Fund, Darjeeling.	96,216	97,122	1,93,338	69,905	1,23,433
Union Funds.					
Birbhum	1,682	6,485	8,167	7,673	494
Burdwan	419	1,190	1,609	1,321	288
Midnapore	1,565	4,933	6,498	5,184	1,314
Jessore	3,987	9,827	13,814	10,047	3,767
Khulna	964	5,321	6,285	4,023	2,262
Murshidabad ...	1,333	4,946	6,279	4,656	1,623
Nadia	1,169	1,050	2,219	1,107	1,112
Faridpur	1,201	9,018	10,218	9,911	307
Dacca	1,051	12,418	13,469	11,807	1,662
Total ...	13,371	55,183	68,558	55,729	12,829
Cantonment Funds.					
Alipore	485	2,160	2,645	1,543	1,102
Barrackpore ...	13,567	63,542	77,109	64,743	12,366
Dum-Dum	5,374	24,104	29,478	22,292	7,186
Jalapahar	776	10,506	11,282	10,358	924
Lebong	4,070	6,269	10,339	6,863	3,476
Takdah	1,021	8,726	9,747	7,624	2,123
Total ...	25,293	1,15,307	1,40,600	1,13,423	27,177
Town and Bazar Funds.					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar Fund.	2,386	7,344	9,730	6,005	3,725
Western Duars' Market Fund, Jalpaiguri.	34,855	50,589	85,444	51,446	33,998
Total ...	37,241	57,933	95,174	57,451	37,723

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Police Fund.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Chaukidari Reward Fund.	97,410	1,02,532	1,99,942	94,841	1,05,101
Fire Brigade ...	85,404	3,83,192	4,68.596	3,72,959	95,637
Foundling Asylum ...	33	3,419	3,452	3,415	37
Total ...	1,82,847	4,89,143	6,71,990	4,71,215	2,00,775
Marine Fund.					
Hospital Port Dues, Calcutta.	177	1,22,766	1,22,943	96,346	26,597
Education Fund.					
Presidency College Graduate Scholarship.	3,310	4,751	8,061	4,419	3,642
Durga Charan Laha's Fund	...	7,157	7,157	7,357	200
Total ...	3,310	11,908	15,218	11,776	3,442
Medical and Charitable Funds.					
Piligrim Lodging House Fund.	4,036	7,310	11,346	8,118	3,228
Asansol Mines Board of Health.	69,180	65,548	1,34,728	58,294	76,434
Chittagong General Hospital.	333	28,606	28,939	28,403	536
Imambara Hospital Fund	3,869	19,178	23,047	20,270	2,777
Bengal Famine Orphan Fund.	11,503	1,222	12,725	.....	12,725
Joygobinda Laha's Fund	11,347	7,513	18,860	13,500	5,360
Ramlal Mukerjee Endowment Fund.	5,676	7,100	12,776	10,500	2,276
Total ...	1,05,944	1,36,477	2,42,421	1,39,085	1,03,336
Public Works Fund.					
Darjeeling Improvement	1,03,220	1,51,637	2,54,857	1,35,003	1,19,854
Miscellaneous Funds.					
Steam Boiler Inspection Fund.	63,389	1,12,208	1,75,597	1,35,283	40,314
Zoological Garden Fund ...	34,459	97,176	1,31,635	84,984	46,651
Moshin Endowment Fund	19,671	1,00,175	1,19,846	99,935	19,911
Christian Burial Board Fund.	16,236	48,273	64,509	48,041	16,468
Muhammadan Burial Board Fund.	625	2,650	3,275	2,584	691
Syedpur Trust Estate Fund.	33,028	1,99,950	2,32,978	2,04,501	28,477
Boinche Trust Estate Fund	2,738	49,900	52,638	45,487	7,151
Total ...	1,70,146	6,10,332	7,80,478	6,20,815	1,59,663
Grand Total ...	43,83,800	1,47 54,167	1,91,37,967	1,48,81,471	42,56,496

Two new union funds were created during the year, viz., Dumkol and Nawada Union Funds, in the district of Murshidabad. The aggregate receipt of the District Funds amounted to Rs. 1,29,06,355 during the year and was larger than that of the previous year by Rs. 12,50,000.

Grants.

529. The Cantonment Funds received the following grants from the Military Department: Jalpahar, Rs. 6,257; Lebong, Rs. 1,750; Takdah, Rs. 4,347. The Durga Charan Laha's Fund received a Government grant of Rs. 200. The Chittagong General Hospital Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,000 from Government.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1919-20.]

Rate.

530. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts where the Cess Act is not in force the road and public works cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties.

Demand and Collection.

531. The valuation of gross rental on which the Cesses are based amounted to Rs. 13,04,29,453 against a land revenue demand of the same area of Rs. 2,76,32,277. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 21·2 per cent. The total Cess demand was Rs. 82,24,988 including arrears (Rs. 11,49,100), and the total collections Rs. 72,04,240. The current demand showed a net increase of Rs. 83,547 over that of the preceding year. In Jalpaiguri however, a sum of Rs. 27,544 of the demand of the year under report was transferred to the following year owing to a change from 1st March to 1st April of the latest date for payment of instalment of cesses in respect of tea and jote lands. The increase was mainly contributed by the districts of Burdwan (Rs. 43,186), Bakarganj (Rs. 15,934) and Noakhali (Rs. 11,280), as a result of the valuation and revaluation proceedings and of the assessment of new mines and royalty receipts and the revision of assessment. The percentage of collections rose from 98·7 to 101·8, while that of the outstanding balance on the total demands fell from 13·9 to 12·4 during the year under report. The remissions decreased from Rs. 67,224 to Rs. 41,865 of which a sum of Rs. 40,036 was granted in the district of Burdwan alone, consequent on the revision of assessment of coal mines under Chapter V of the Cess Act. No arrears were barred by limitation during the year under report.

Working of the certificate procedure.

532. The total number of certificates filed for the realisation of Cesses was 45,692 against 50,854 of the previous year. The decrease was shared by all the districts except Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Bakarganj, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Malda, and Pabna. The total number of certificates for disposal, including those (15,751) pending from the preceding year, stood at 61,443 of which 47,509 were disposed of, leaving 13,934 pending at the close of the year. The number (1,389) of cases pending for more than six months showed some increase in comparison with the preceding year (1,138), and for those pending cases Hooghly (222), Chittagong (240) and Tippera (208) were mainly responsible. In as many as 1,221 cases certificates were cancelled on such grounds as double assessment, death or desertion of certificates debtors, payment of dues before the issue of certificates and certificates being filed against wrong persons. Arrears of Cesses were recovered in 12,252 cases on the mere issue of the notices of demand and in 27,072 cases on the issue of notices for the attachment of property, movable and immovable, while recourse had to be taken on actual sales only in 1,206 cases out of a total number of 61,443 for disposal.

Valuations and revaluations.

533. Revaluations on a large scale under the control of the Collector were in progress in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Midnapore and Mymensingh. Revaluations conducted by the Settlement Department were also in progress in the entire district of Rajshahi and in some estates in Tippera. The assessment of Coal mines in the district of Burdwan and of certain *Gazari* Forests in Dacca was, as usual, revised under Part II, Chapter V of the Cess Act.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Reports of the Sanitary Commissioner for the year 1919. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

General results.

534. During the year 1919 the number of recorded deaths in Bengal exceeded the number of recorded births by 396,000, or 8·7 per mille of the population. The presence of influenza in the first half of the year and epidemics of cholera and small-pox were mainly responsible for this loss of population.

Birth-rate.

535. The birth-rate was only 27·5 per mille, the lowest returned since 1892 : it was 5·4 per mille less than the ratio of 1918 and 5·8 per mille less than the average for the preceding five years. Every district showed a reduction in the birth-rate, and only one province in India returned a lower ratio, viz., Madras, where it was 25·5 per mille. The decrease is attributed by the Director of Public Health to economic pressure resulting from the poor harvest of 1918, combined with the effect of high prices, the prevalence of influenza and the consequent excessive mortality which occurred in the latter part of 1918 and the earlier months of 1919.

Death-rate.

536. The number of deaths was 226,000 above the quinquennial average, though it fell short of the previous year's figure by 86,000. The death-rate represented 36·2 per mille of the population and was higher than in any year since 1905 with the exception of 1918; it was, however, less than that returned by four other provinces in India. The heavy mortality of the year was the aftermath of the influenza epidemic of 1918 and was enhanced by virulent and widespread epidemics of cholera and small-pox. In the opinion of the Director of Public Health it is difficult to trace any marked correlation between the range of prices and the mortality in Bengal, the increased prices of food-grains, though they bear heavily on certain classes of the community, tending, in the presence of reasonably good harvests, to benefit a large proportion of the population; but such a correlation is observable in the case of crop outturns and mortality, deficient harvests being almost invariably followed by an increased number of deaths.

The highest mortality in the towns of Bengal was returned by Howrah, where the death-rate was 55·1 per mille. It was closely followed by Barnagore with 54·8, of which over 20 per cent. was due to cholera, dysentery and diarrhœa. The Director of Public Health remarks that it is significant that over 40 per cent. of the total mortality in the latter town should have been due to easily preventible water-borne diseases of this nature, while over 14 per cent. of the mortality was due to small-pox, another easily preventible disease.

Infant mortality.

537. The number of deaths amongst infants declined by 55,000, but owing to the fall in the aggregate of births the actual ratio of infantile mortality was nearly exactly the same as in 1918. A large and representative committee was appointed by the Governor in Council in May 1919 to advise upon measures to reduce infantile mortality and promote child welfare, and its final report is awaited.

Verification of Vital Statistics.

538. The returns of vital statistics are still defective. The usual verification by inspectors and sub-inspectors of vaccination disclosed many omissions in the birth and death registers; the largest proportion of omissions in the birth register, viz., 9·1 per cent. was returned by Jalpaiguri and in the death register (7·8) by Rajshahi. The statistics are also defective in respect of the causes of death, many of the deaths from influenza being recorded under the head " fever."

539. The mortality from cholera aggregated 125,000, a figure which has only once been exceeded in the last 10 years. Only one of the 116 municipalities and only 4 out of 498 registration circles were immune from the disease. The high mortality was caused by the conditions which commenced in the cold weather of 1918, viz., short rainfall in October, the early cessation of the rains and the consequent deficiency of crops. These factors led to increased emigration, the effect of which was seen in the heavy incidence of cholera at centres where cooly labourers halted on their way to Assam and the Duars, and the manner in which infection spread along the river and railway routes. It is probable also that a considerable proportion of the enhanced mortality in the Burdwan and Presidency divisions was indirectly due to infection from pilgrims returning from Saugor Island, where there was an outbreak in January 1919. **Cholera.**

Although many local authorities are still very apathetic and slow to accept responsibility in regard to the prevention of cholera, there is evidence that they are gradually waking up to the importance of taking steps to investigate the cause of local outbreaks with a view to applying the simple means necessary for preventing the spread of infection. Action is, however, only too often belated, little or nothing being done to disinfect wells and tanks till cholera has become widespread. The Director of Public Health complains of the absence of concerted and systematic preventive measures and remarks :—" Cholera was reported from no less than 15,876 villages in the province, but only a few advanced districts, such as Burdwan, have as yet made any attempt to deal with this scourge of village life, and as a consequence of this neglect, every year sees many thousands of lives needlessly sacrificed and enormous econimic loss occasioned to the province.

540. The mortality from fever, always high in Bengal, was 1,229,000, or 27·1 per mille, which was 2·9 per mille less than the rate recorded in the previous year. The effect of influenza, many of the deaths from which were returned under this head, is reflected in the returns. The mortality was especially heavy in the first six months, when also influenza was raging, fell in July and, after a slight rise in August, declined steadily each month. **Fever.**

541. The four anti-malarial schemes, carried out at Memglas, Singuran, Jangessar and Banka Valley, came into full operation and the results are reported to have been distinctly encouraging. Work was started on the Nawi-Sunthi and Jabuna schemes, two large drainage schemes of which the object is to resuscitate dead or dying rivers. Twenty-four municipalities having reported that they had undertaken special anti-malarial measures on lines laid down by the Director of Public Health, a special enquiry was made to test the results. It was ascertained that with three exceptions (Birnagar, Panihati and Tangail) little or nothing had been attempted, and that very few of the municipal boards concerned had made any budget provision for anti-malarial work. In many of the towns moreover, the incidence of malaria was found to be so small that special measures were not really required. The special Assistant Director of Public Health was, however, able to advise others as to the measures suitable to local conditions. These facts are significant of the need for local authorities enlisting the help of the Public Health Department and having a malarial survey made before incurring expenditure. Malarial surveys were made in 276 villages, 4 collieries and one tea-garden in addition to these 24 municipalities. In spite of the increase of the price of quinine treatments effected in 1918, the issues rose by 27 per cent. Altogether 9,000 lbs of quinine were sold in this way to retail purchasers, besides which about 1,200 lbs. of quinine in tablet form was issued by Government for free distribution among the poor by District Boards, municipalities and officers of the Public Health Department. **Anti-malarial measures.**

542. The influenza epidemic of 1918 continued during the first half of the year, though in a less virulent form. Owing to deaths from it being largely ascribed to fever, it is impossible to gauge with complete accuracy the actual mortality, but the Director of Public Health estimates that the total number of deaths in 1919 may be roughly taken at 200,000; and that the epidemic took a toll of nearly 600,000 lives in the two years. The incidence **Influenza.**

of the disease was far from uniform. The Burdwan and Birbhum districts appear to have suffered most severely, each probably losing an aggregate of 3 per cent. of their population during the two years; Bankura, Nadia and Murshidabad each lost 2½ per cent. of their population; in Hooghly, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Midnapore and Chittagong the deaths represent a loss of from 1·5 to 1·8 per cent.; in Noakhali, Malda, Mymensingh, Pabna and Tippera the loss is rather over one per cent.; in Dacca, Rajshahi and Khulna it is rather less than one per cent.; in Howrah, 24-Parganas and Dinajpur it is about ·7 per cent.; in Rangpur about ·6 per cent.; in Bogra about ·5 per cent.; and in Jessore and Faridpur between ·3 and ·4 per cent. only.

Special enquiries.

543. A resolution on the progress of anti-hookworm campaign was published on 31st May 1920, and it will be sufficient to state here that valuable investigation work has been done, knowledge of the disease and of its effects has been disseminated, and progress has been made in establishing centres for diagnosis and treatment. An investigation into the extent and causes of pollution of the water of the river Hooghly was commenced and a special enquiry was made into the prevalence of *kala azar* in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh. In the Tangail subdivision in the Mymensingh district, it appears that there is a high rate of *kala azar* infection, and the District Board has been urged to start a campaign against the disease on systematic lines. In the Dacca district the result of the enquiry is to show that a severe stage of infection has not yet been reached, and it rests with the District Board to make a thorough survey of infected areas and to arrange for treatment, which should not only prevent the further spread of the disease but be effectual in eradicting it from the district.

Emigration.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[The report of Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901) for the year ending the 30th June 1920, submitted by the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, and the District and Assistant Superintendents of Emigration.]

Administrative measures.

544. The year under review was an uneventful one, its principal feature being the considerable decrease in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts as compared with the previous year. No administrative measure of importance was introduced during the year.

Recruitment and recruiting agencies.

545. Recruiting operations were conducted in the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Midnapore, where seven hundred garden-sardars (including 177 sardarnis) were employed during the year, as against 1,522 (including 353 sardarnis) in the preceding year. All of them worked under the supervision of licensed local agents. Thirteen local agents' licenses were issued in 1919-20, as compared with six in the year 1918-19. In all, 600 emigrants were recruited in Bengal, or 1,764 less than in the previous year, Midnapore and Bankura supplying the largest number of recruits, viz., 369 and 183, respectively. No criminal case connected with emigration was reported during the year.

Number of emigrants despatched *via* Goalundo.

546. The total number of emigrants recruited in Bengal and other provinces who embarked at Goalundo during the year under report was 50,989, as compared with 119,883 in the preceding year, in which the number of emigrants was abnormally large owing to the scarcity and high prices prevailing in the recruiting districts. Most gardens were thus better stocked with labour than they had been for many years and consequently the demand was less. To this the falling off in the number of emigrants during the year 1919-20 may be attributed.

Sanitary arrangements sickness and mortality.

547 The places of accommodation and rest-houses for emigrants were duly inspected and generally kept in proper sanitary condition, while the arrangements for river transport were satisfactory. Twenty-three deaths, of which six were due to cholera, were reported to have occurred among emigrants at Asansol, Kharagpur or Naihati on their way to Goalundo, and

among the 51,052 emigrants who arrived at that station, there were 55 deaths, seven being due to cholera. There was no death during the steamer journey to Chandpur among the 17,892 emigrants, who embarked for the Surma Valley districts, but of the 33,097 emigrants who embarked for the Brahmaputra Valley, 28 died during the voyage, three of the deaths being due to cholera.

548. Fifteen emigrants refused to embark after their arrival at Goalundo, one was rejected as physically unfit for labour on a tea estate and one was repatriated from the labour district *viâ* Goalundo. Repatriation.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[The Triennial Report on the working of the hospitals and dispensaries in the Bengal Presidency for the years 1917, 1918 and 1919. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

The opportunity has been taken to include in the following account a brief review for the three years ending in 1919.

549. The Medical Department had to work under adverse conditions for the reason that not only, with few exceptions, were the medical officers, who had been deputed from Bengal to military service, not allowed to revert, but there were further deputations to the Military Department during the triennium ending in 1919. This drain upon the resources of the province, though necessitated by emergencies which it was incumbent upon Bengal, alike with other provinces, to assist in meeting, meant that work was carried on in most unfavourable circumstances, and imposed a heavy strain on all concerned. Staff.

Civil assistant surgeons had unique opportunities of showing their worth as officiating civil surgeons and gave satisfaction in many respects. They also got ample opportunities of volunteering for temporary commissions in the Indian Medical Service, and those who did so have reaped valuable experience. Altogether 17 permanent and 20 temporary officers of this class have been awarded temporary commissions since the outbreak of the war, and two officers, one permanent and one temporary, were granted permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service last year.

550. In order to meet the need for a greater number of qualified medical practitioners, the sanctioned strength of the students at the Government Medical Schools at Calcutta and Dacca has been raised to 500 and 400, respectively, while the establishment of a new medical school at Burdwan has been sanctioned, with accommodation for 200 students. The question of establishing medical schools at other suitable centres has also received the careful attention of Government, but it is necessary to proceed with some caution, for each new school involves considerable capital and recurring expenditure, and the maintenance of an efficient hospital alongside of it is an essential condition of its success or, indeed, of its feasibility. The Carmichael Medical College at Belgachia, which also affords facilities for higher medical education, has succeeded in obtaining affiliation up to the final M.B. examination of the Calcutta University, thanks largely to the liberal financial assistance afforded to it by Government. Medical Education.

The School of Tropical Medicine at Calcutta was completed four years ago, but could not be opened on account of conditions arising out of the war, and this has been among the most unfortunate results of the dislocation of the Department. In 1917 it was decided that the school, which was originally designed to teach only for the diploma in Tropical Medicine, should be combined with a new Institute of Hygiene, thus rendering necessary the construction of additional buildings. Revised proposals for the increased staff and for an extended syllabus required for the combined institution have been submitted to the Government of India. Research work is to be started in connection with the school, out of the funds generously contributed by the Indian Tea, Jute and Mining Associations and certain private firms and gentlemen.

A scheme has also been drawn up for the establishment of a Dental School to be attached to the Calcutta Medical College, involving the construction of buildings at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,66,000. The work will be taken up as soon as funds are forthcoming.

Calcutta Hospitals.

551. Though all the Government hospitals in Calcutta are more or less over-crowded, incurables and permanent cripples always occupy a considerable number of beds, especially at the Campbell Hospital. The establishment of a separate hospital for incurables in Calcutta has become a matter of urgent necessity and the matter is receiving attention. The want of a convalescent home near the city to relieve the pressure on the Medical College and other hospitals has also been brought to notice. Another long-felt need is the provision of a suitable infectious diseases hospital. A committee appointed by Government to consider the matter and to select a site outside municipal limits came to the conclusion that two hospitals for the treatment of infectious diseases are required in Calcutta, one for the northern and the other for the southern part of the city, although the former should take precedence. The co-operation of the Calcutta Corporation has been sought. New nurses' quarters and the Eye Hospital are under construction at the Medical College, and it is hoped that the much-needed extension of the Eden Hospital will be shortly commenced.

The expenditure, especially on Government institutions, shows a considerable increase due mainly to the high cost of diet, clothing, medical stores, dressing materials, the enhancement of the pay of establishments, the construction of certain important buildings and the acquisition of land required for expansion.

The total cost of the upkeep of the Calcutta Hospitals rose from Rs. 16,42,995 in 1917 to Rs. 21,14,443 in 1918, and Rs. 29,03,660 in 1919, altogether 72 per cent. of the total receipts in these three years, was contributed by Government. The amount of subscriptions and donations received from the public was Rs. 1,20,267 in 1917, Rs. 1,50,237 in 1918 and Rs. 60,692 in 1919, or 6·96, 6·60 and 1·98 per cent., respectively, of the total receipts, the last year showing a most disappointing decline. The obligation of contributing liberally towards these charitable institutions is but inadequately met by the Calcutta public, and there is ample scope for greater private liberality than has hitherto been displayed.

The total number of in-door patients treated at the Calcutta Hospitals increased from 95,740 to 107,632 during the triennium, and the out-door patients from 1,095,483 to 1,230,994, *i.e.*, the out-door attendance exceeded the figures for the previous triennium by 135,511. The number of beds available in these hospitals, viz., 2,385, during the last triennium, against 2,323 beds available during the previous three years, shows a slight increase. The nursing arrangements at the various hospitals continued to be satisfactory, though modern economic conditions led to considerable improvements in the prospects of the staff. The Medical College and the Presidency General Hospitals are, however, in need of more nurses for the new extensions, but they cannot be appointed until additional quarters are built for them and more money is forthcoming to meet the extra cost involved. The provision of proper nursing is absolutely essential to the efficiency of these institutions, and failing greater public support they cannot but be severely handicapped.

DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

552. The triennium under notice opened with 700 hospitals and dispensaries outside Calcutta. Although 77 new dispensaries came into existence during the three years and 12 were closed. Of the 765 institutions thus remaining at the close of the triennium, 19 were State public, 46 State special, 408 local fund, 87 private aided, 153 private non-aided and 52 railway dispensaries. In spite of this increase the number of dispensaries in the mufassal still fails to keep pace with the demand for medical assistance. The urgency of the matter has on more than one occasion been brought to

the attention of District Boards, and it is hoped that they will continue energetically their efforts to establish new hospitals and dispensaries in the areas in which medical relief is still not available.

An annual average of 6,471,403 out-door and 69,620 in-door patients were treated in mufassal institutions, compared with 5,725,611 and 61,402 during the previous triennium. The nursing arrangements in these hospitals are generally very defective and, except in a few instances, are still left to the relatives of patients or to the hospital dressers, compounders, and ward coolies. Want of funds is the chief obstacle in the way of remedying this very serious defect.

There was a marked increase in the cost of upkeep of the hospitals and dispensaries in the mufassal, as in Calcutta, due to similar causes. The total expenditure of all State public (class I), local fund (class III), and private aided (class IV) hospitals and dispensaries outside Calcutta amounted to Rs. 40,93,332 during the triennium, as compared with Rs. 35,02,595 in the previous three years, while the total receipts amounted to Rs. 62,63,781 against Rs. 36,83,664. The Government contributions formed 12·66 per cent. of the total income in 1917, 11·28 per cent. in 1918 and 12·82 per cent. in 1919, while local fund contributions amounted to 40·10 per cent., 42·10 per cent. and 42·88 per cent., respectively, of the total income of those years. The public subscriptions and donations received during the last three years show an increase from Rs. 2,67,595 in 1917 to Rs. 2,85,989 in 1919 (or 18·41 per cent. of the total income), but they are still lamentably inadequate to permit of these institutions being placed upon a satisfactory footing. In fact the finances of mufassal hospitals are at present in an exceedingly precarious position. Recent enhancements in the cost of nearly everything have seriously embarrassed work, and instances of full use failing to be made, for pecuniary reasons, even of the insufficient number of beds which exist, are by no means few. The experiment was initiated on a small scale of subsidising private practitioners in order to induce them to settle in the interior, and it should be capable of expansion with advantage.

553. This disease is treated chiefly in the three leper asylums at Gobra, Raniganj and Bankura. The first is maintained by Government, while the other two are under the Mission to Lepers, helped by Government. The scale of capitation grants paid from provincial revenues for adult lepers treated in the last two asylums was raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 4 per head per mensem, with effect from April 1919, and that for the untainted children of lepers to Rs. 2 per child. The Gobra Leper Asylum had an annual average population of 396, while the population at the Raniganj and Bankura asylums averaged 317 and 176 a year, respectively. **Leprosy.**

The Lepers Act has been amended so as to widen the definition of a statutory leper. The arrangements at present existing in the leper asylums are not up to date, while the accommodation provided therein is also insufficient. A more satisfactory way of dealing with the problem is to open large leper colonies or settlements, and the question of establishing a leper colony is engaging the attention of Government. The difficulty will be mainly financial.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1919.]

554. The total number of admissions during the year fell from 712 in 1918 to 443. The number of persons admitted to the several classes viz., first, intermediate, second and third classes, was 92, 60, 184, and 107, respectively. The number of patients treated was 143, or 38 more than in the previous year. **Admissions.**

555. The total receipts of the institution for the year, viz., Rs. 44,106, fell short of the total expenditure by Rs. 15,546. The decrease in the number of admissions was primarily responsible for this loss. The removal of the embargo on travelling to England which existed during the war **Finance.**

reduced the number of persons visiting the institution, and another reason for the decrease is probably that the enhanced cost of living in the hills kept away many people of ordinary means. The opening of the Lady Minto Nursing Home at Salt Hill, where both maternity and surgical cases are admitted, also adversely affected the finances of the institution. The daily average cost of diet rose from Rs. 2-1 in 1918 to Rs. 2-6-9 in 1919.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the year 1919, Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Admission, discharge, population and accommodation.

556. There was 247 admissions during the year, including 10 re-admissions, as compared with 334 admissions in 1918, while the numbe rof persons discharged amounted to 171 against 319 in the previous year. The total number of insane persons treated in the asylums in Bengal during the year under review was 1,254 against 1,430 in 1918, the daily average strength being 997 against 1,079 and the maximum number confined on any one night being 1,028, as compared with 1,126 in 1918. The decrease in the total number of inmates was mainly due to a reduction in the number of military insanes admitted and of transfers from other provinces. The total capacity of the lunatic asylums in Bengal, including the Bhowanipur Observation Ward, was 1,099 as compared with 1,170 in 1918. The difference is accounted for by the abolition of the Bhowanipur Lunatic Asylum and its replacement by a temporary observation ward for 6 patients as well as a recalculation of the capacity of the Berhampur Asylum by a fresh survey at 50 superficial feet per patient. In the new building now under construction at Bhowanipur, provision has been made for the accommodation of 30 observation cases, viz., 6 Europeans and 24 Indians. The building is expected to be completed in March 1921.

Health of lunatics.

557. The record of health of the inmates was not satisfactory, the number of daily average sick rising to 107·78 from 94·38. The total number of admissions into hospital was 501. The chief causes of sickness were dysentery, diarrhœa, malaria, anæmia, influenza and pneumonia. Tubercle of the lungs was, however, conspicuously on the decrease, and cholera and small-pox were absent, except for a solitary case of the latter at Berhampur, which was cured. One hundred deaths occurred during the year, the ratio per 100 of the average population being 10·03, as against 9·63 in 1918. This heavy mortality was due to an epidemic of influenza at the Berhampur Asylum, which caused 16 deaths, and the bad health of a large number of new admissions at the asylums at Dacca and Berhampur.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Board and the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, Bengal, 1919.]

Sanitary Engineering.

558. Altogether 14 schemes of water-supply, sewerage and anti-malarial drainage were in course of construction during the year under the control of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department; six of these were completed, while the expenditure on new construction work amounted to four lakhs of rupees. The total capital expenditure on water-works and drainage and sewerage schemes carried out by municipalities during the year amounted to Rs. 4,29,431 and Rs. 95,793 respectively. The progress of work was impeded by several unavoidable causes. The rise in the cost of materials necessitated revision of the estimates and a consequent re-examination of the financial basis of the schemes; variations in rates of exchange and labour difficulties in England interfered with tenders for machinery and other materials, and after the acceptance of tenders there was uncertainty about delivery and delay in the fulfilment of contracts.

The growing realization of the importance of industrial housing in large labour centres congregated near the mills is evinced by the munificent contribution of 18½ lakhs, which has been made by the jute mill companies having mills along the Hooghly for schemes of sanitation in mill towns. Projects were prepared during the year under review for the sewerage of Titaghar, Naihati, Bhatpara, Kamarhati, Bhadreswar and Champdany, and for a town-planning scheme at Bhatpara, as well as for the improvement of its water-supply.

Water-supply in rural area.

559. Of late years the District Boards have given greater attention to the question of improving the sources of rural water-supply, and in the year under report over 6½ lakhs of rupees were spent on the construction of new tanks and wells in rural areas and over Rs. 68,000 on the upkeep of the existing sources of supply. The efforts of the District Boards in this direction are laudable but their sagacity in financing capital works of this nature from revenue is open to question. The Director of Public Health himself points out that the practice of devoting a large portion of general revenue to items of capital expenditure, which might legitimately be met from loans, is seriously crippling the public health work of District Boards and preventing them from undertaking proper measures for the suppression of such epidemic diseases as cholera, which require a sufficiently numerous staff of suitably trained subordinates.

Sanitary Board.

560. The constitution of the Sanitary Board was the same as in the previous year. The Board held eight meetings in Calcutta and one in Darjeeling and as before rendered valuable assistance to Government in the administration of the Public Health Department.

Mines Board of Health.

561. The Asansol Mines Board of Health continued to do good work, of which two instances may be mentioned. The ratio of infant mortality in the area under its jurisdiction was only 140 per mille compared with the rate of 342 in the district as a whole and the provincial rate of 228; this satisfactory result is ascribed to the fact that the Board of Health employs a staff of trained midwives, who not only render gratuitous assistance to women during confinement but also act as health visitors. The effect of the efficient system of vaccination and revaccination in force is apparent from the fact that there were only 14 deaths from small-pox, all imported, and that there were only 200 local cases, none of which proved fatal.

Development of the Department.

562. The year under review witnessed a rapid expansion of the work of the Public Health Department, the burden of which fell largely on the Director and the Chief Engineer of the Department.

Plague.

563. There was a slight increase in the total mortality from plague, 424 deaths being reported as against 289 deaths in the last year. Calcutta, as usual returned the largest number of deaths, viz., 334; there were 80 deaths in the 24-Parganas, 5 in Howrah, 3 in Hooghly and 2 in Nadia, the rest of the Presidency being immune.

Vaccination.

[Annual Statistical Returns and Short Notes on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Small-pox.

564. Deaths from small-pox rose above the high figure of 33,000 recorded in 1915 and aggregated 37,000. Its ravages were general, but compared with last year a smaller number of children under 10 were attacked, and the enhanced mortality was chiefly among adults. In several mofassal towns it was found that the disease was imported from Calcutta and spread first among the sweepers, a class specially prejudiced against vaccination, and from them to the townspeople at large.

Vaccination.

565. Vaccination was stimulated by the prevalence of small-pox and by the efforts of the Public Health Department to popularize preventive measures. Early in the season warnings were issued that an epidemic was likely to occur; illustrated leaflets and posters were circulated widely, which

appear to have had a good effect; and local authorities and officers were urged to push on vaccination vigorously. The result was that the number of vaccinations increased by nearly 80 per cent., rising from 1,785,000 to 3,187,000. Free vaccination was introduced, at the cost of the District Boards, in Birbhum and Howrah and in the Patuakhali subdivision of the Bakarganj district. It was also continued in the districts of Burdwan, the 24-Parganas and Jalpaiguri as well as in certain thanas of Bogra and Malda. Several District Boards employed paid vaccinators, and this system proved successful wherever it was adopted.

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the working of the Poisons Act during 1919.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

566. The provisions of the Act as well as the rules issued under it were made known to the public in the same manner as in the preceding years. The total number of licenses granted during the year under review throughout the Presidency including Calcutta was 169 under sections 2 and 244 under section 4 as compared with 163 and 240, respectively, in 1918. In Calcutta the total number of licenses issued under both the sections amounted to 138 against 123 in the previous year. No license was issued in the districts of Faridpur, Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri, Bogra and Chittagong Hill Tracts. The shops of licensed vendors of poisons were as usual inspected by police and other officers, but no serious irregularity was detected. In Calcutta 2 men were prosecuted for possessionand sale of white arsenic without a license, and 1 of them was convicted and fined Rs. 100, the other being discharged. In mufassal districts 15 prosecutions were instituted of which 10 ended in conviction. Several cases of cattle poisoning were reported by the Commissioners of the Presidency and Chittagong Divisions, and unlicensed sale of poisons was suspected in certain districts. The Poisons Act of 1904 was repealed by the new Act of 1919 (India Act XXII of 1919).

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 264—273.

Education.

[The Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Educational Institutions and Expenditure.

567. During the year under review the number of institutions and public attending them increased by 1,178 and 22,374 respectively. There was an increase in the number of public institutions, but private institutions, showed a loss, the causes of which were the prevailing adverse economic conditions, the devastation caused by the Eastern Bengal cyclone and the prevalence of epidemic diseases. The total expenditure on education amounted to nearly Rs. 302 lakhs, of which Rs. 100 lakhs were contributed direct by Government; nearly Rs. 15½ lakhs came from the funds of local bodies, Rs. 131½ lakhs were derived from fees and Rs. 55 lakhs were obtained from endowments, subscriptions and other sources. The expenditure on the different branches of education is shown in the following statements, together with the number of scholars in the different classes of educational institutions:—

Direct Expenditure.

	Rs.	Percentage of total. 1920.	No. of pupils on 31st March.
Colleges	35,93,289	11·9	26,521
Secondary Schools ...	1,00,31,351	33·2	3,97,987
Primary „ ...	49,45,625	16·3	14,09,874
Special „ ...	19,52,039	6·4	52,277

Indirect Expenditure.

	Rs.	Percentage of total.
University	19,71,040	6·5
Direction and Inspection ...	12,01,230	3·9
Scholarships	4,51,265	1·4
Buildings, furniture and apparatus	32,93,180	10·9
Miscellaneous	27,53,872	9·1

Collegiate Education.

568. There were 36 arts colleges (including 3 women's colleges) of which 8 were under Government management and one was under Municipal management, while 13 were aided and 14 unaided. The number of students in these colleges was 21,557. With the exception of the Presidency and Dacca Colleges there was an increase in the number of students in other Government colleges. The expenditure on Collegiate education rose by Rs. 2,16,479 and the average cost of educating a student was Rs.107-12-2.

The Wesleyan College, Bankura, the Midnapore College, St. Paul's Cathedral College, Calcutta, and the Diocesan College, Calcutta, received special non-recurring grants amounting to Rs. 12,786 for effecting certain structural and other improvements. Out of the Imperial recurring grant of Rs. 1,29,000 for private Colleges, Rs. 1,20,400 was distributed during the year for the improvement of College laboratories and libraries on the recommendation of the Syndicate.

The Calcutta University Commission's report was published during the year under report. After an exhaustive enquiry the Commission found fundamental defects in the present scheme of education in general and in present-day University education in particular. The Dacca University Act has been passed, but the outcome of the Commission's report, so far as it affects the general University and Secondary Education System of the Presidency is still a mere matter for speculation. The Calcutta University Bill has not appeared as yet and in the meantime financial difficulties are appearing in the way of giving effect to the Commission's report.

Secondary Education of Indian boys.

569. The number of high schools for Indian boys increased by 57 while that of middle schools decreased by 76. The fall in the latter class of institutions is mainly due to the raising of the status of middle English schools to that of high schools and to the ever-growing unpopularity of the middle Vernacular schools. The whole Secondary Education System of the Presidency is approaching the point of breakdown as it has been built on an absolutley unsound financial basis. The terms that were sanctioned for English and Vernacular teachers under the Secondary Education Scheme are inadequate in consideration of present economic conditions and a general re-organisation of salaries is taking place.

The Calcutta University Commission recommended the separation from the University curriculum of the work now covered by the first two years of the present University course, the constitution of a new authority to control secondary and intermediate education and the establishment of a system of intermediate colleges some of which would contain high school classes. The adoption of this vital reform was announced in the Government of India resolution but nothing could be done without an Act. During the year under report sanction was accorded to the permanent retention of manual instruction classes in 21·99 Government and 12 aided schools.

Primary Education of Indian boys.

570. The number of pupils attending primary schools for Indian boys on the 31st March 1920 was 1,151,988 as against 1,144,383 returned on the same date of the preceding year. The number of pupils attending upper primary schools decreased by 2,334 while pupils attending lower primary schools increased by 9,939. The decrease in the former class of institutions was shared by the Burdwan, Presidency, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, and the causes were, the increased cost of living and the high rate of mortality due to influenza and other diseases. The increase in the number of pupils in the lower primary schools was shared by the three Eastern divisions. The number of Hindu pupils in primary schools fell by 7,060 or 1·3 per cent. while the number of Muhammadan pupils increased by 13,590 or by 2·34 per cent. In terms of the Primary Education Act, which was passed in February 1919, the Municipalities in Bengal were called upon to submit to Government certain statistics and estimates for the extension of primary education in their respective areas and the subordinate inspecting staff was asked to help the Municipalities in the preparation of statistics. Since the period under review closed an officer of the I. E. S. has been placed on special duty to work out a practical programme of expansion and improvement. The condition of primary education in Bengal continues to be bad and the outlook is depressing. The worst feature is the fact that the primary school teacher does not get a living wage. Then the facilities for training such teachers are inadequate, while many of the older schools are hopelessly inefficient.

Training of Teachers for Indian Schools.

571. During the year under review there were two training colleges, 6 normal schools, and 111 guru, muallim and special training schools. Four B. T. students were deputed to the Dacca Training College by the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad.

The Calcutta University Commission recommended important changes in the organization and curriculum of training colleges, the latter as it exists to-day being criticised as too theoretical. The number of training schools for vernacular teachers remained stationary at 6, 5 of which are managed by Government, while one, an aided institution, is maintained by the Church Missionary Society. The total number of guru-training schools and special training classes returned on the 31st March 1920 was 111, of which 107 were managed by Government and 4 were aided. During the year under review orders of the Secretary of State were received on the proposals for opening guru-training schools of an improved type in central places.

Professional and technical Education.

572. The scheme to co-ordinate the apprentice training in the E. B. Ry. workshops at Kanchrapara with the Mechanical Engineering classes of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, has been favourably considered by Government who have sanctioned a part of the non-recurring expenditure. The Dyeing classes of the college were removed to the Government Weaving Institute of Serampore. The scheme for the general improvement of the Dacca School of Engineering which was submitted to Government was sanctioned during the year. The improvements sanctioned included the removal of the school and the workshop to the building formerly used as the Secretariat Press. The old overseers class will cease to exist after March 1921. The number of students for admission to the higher classes of the Serampore Weaving Institute was insufficient and this fact was attributed partly to the late commencement of the session in November. It is proposed to remove the Weaving Institute from Serampore, where there are difficulties in the way of expansion, to a spacious site at Lillooah. The Dacca District Board have launched a scheme for starting a Weaving Institute at Dacca, where the weavers seem eager to adopt improved machinery. The number of pupils in the Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, on the 31st March 1920 was 184; some of these were graduates and Muhammadans, very few of whom have sought admission to the institution previously. This indicates the popularity of the institution. During the year under review the Industries Department was organized in accordance with the general proposals of the Indian Industries Commission. Since the close of the year under review all educational institutions for technical and industrial training, with the exception of the Bengal Engineering College and the Dacca School of Engineering, have been transferred from the Educational to the Industries Department.

Education of Indian Girls and Women.

573. During the year under review the education of Indian girls and women made an appreciable advance. The number of institutions of all classes on the 31st March 1920 and the number of pupils reading in them increased by 732 and 16,219 respectively. The number of Hindu girls increased by 229 only while that of the Muhammadan girls increased by 15,759. It is interesting to observe that the Muhammadans are making steady progress in female education.

As the facilities for the training of women teachers were inadequate there was an utter lack of trained teachers specially in the secondary schools, for teaching such subjects as Science, Domestic Science, Sanitation, Physical Education and Art work. In the matter of domestic economy a proposal was made during the year to create two State scholarships to enable two Indian ladies to be sent to the Gloucester School of Domestic Science to undergo a course of training, the idea being that these teachers should, on their return, be occupied with the training of teachers in this subject. For the future development of middle schools it was decided to start a central *pardahnashin* school at Calcutta to provide instruction for orthodox Hindu girls in accordance with a distinct syllabus of its own and for this purpose the Binapani Girls' School was selected. The number of Muhammadan and Hindu pupils reading in primary schools increased by 16,516 and 1,614 respectively during the year under report. The increase in the number of Muhammadan pupils is largely attributed to the attractive nature of the maktab curriculum, which includes the teaching of the Koran and the ritual of Islam. Zanana teachers continued to do useful work and there were 1,302 pupils under them. Owing to the outbreak of epidemics the work at some centres came to standstill. The scheme

for the teaching of needlework by peripatetic teachers was popular and its extension was not possible for want of funds.

Education of Europeans.

574. During the year under review there were 81 European schools of which 62 were for general and 19 for special instruction. The number of pupils attending these schools on the 31st March 1920 was 10,106. There is no training class in Bengal for European male teachers. Government, however, assists intending teachers to proceed to Sanawar for training. Only one candidate from Bengal was deputed for such training during the year under report. A grant at a uniform rate of Rs. 7 was sanctioned during the year for every cadet or boy scout between the ages of 12 and 16. The general condition of European schools in Bengal is fairly satisfactory. The school authorities are generally pressing for improvement as they are unable to maintain the institutions in efficiency on the present income. None of the schools have any capital to fall back upon and building improvements and extensions are in many cases vitally and urgently necessary.

Education of Muhammadans

575. During the year under review the Muhammadan pupils in institutions of all kinds for Indians increased by 27,915. The Muhammadans are gradually gaining ground but have still considerable leeway to make up. In primary schools the proportion of Moslem pupils is now commensurate with the ratio of the Muhammadan population to the total population of the Presidency. The special feature of the year's progress in Muhammadan Education was the institution of the special Islamic Matriculation Examination under the reformed Madrassa scheme. The first year Islamic Intermediate class was started at the Dacca Madrassa in July 1919. In primary education Muhammadans made rapid progress but in other grades of education the result was not satisfactory.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Bengal Library and working of Act XXV of 1867.

576. The total number of publications registered during the year was 3,903, namely, 2,804 books and 1,099 issues of periodicals. Of the books, 2,554 were original publications and 250 republications and translations. The issues of periodicals represented 150 separate publications, of which 44 were in English, 68 in Bengali and the remainder in other languages. There were 16 cases of evasion of the law of book-registration (Act XXV of 1867).

Literary publications.

577. There was a slight increase in the output of literature, as compared with that of the preceding year. The poetical literature of the year was of considerable interest, the most important work being a historical epic poem entitled "Sivaji," by Jogindra Nath Basu, B.A., Kavibhushan. There was marked activity in the production of biographical works. No drama of special merit was produced. Fiction continued to flourish. Many good novels, historical, social and domestic, were published. The following are among the historical works most deserving of notice, namely:—

(1) a book in English entitled "Corporate Life in Ancient India," by Romesh Chandra Mazumdar, M.A., Calcutta University Lecturer on Ancient History; and

(2) an encyclopædic work in Bengali entitled "Prithivir Itihas" (History of the World), Part VII, by Durgadas Lahiri.

The output of political literature waned. The question of the reforms continued to be the most engrossing topic. There were no works of outstanding merit in the domains of art, religion and philosophy.

The Press.

578. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and vernacular, printed and published in the Presidency during the year was 330. Of these, 218 were published in the town of Calcutta; 161 were in Bengali, 117 in English, 9 in Hindi and the rest in Assamese, Sanskrit and other languages.

Forty-seven new periodicals and newspapers were started, 4 old papers were revived and 46 ceased to exist.

579. The Indian papers displayed a deep interest in the peace discussions. The Turkish question obsessed the Muhammadan journals whose protestations increased in bitterness as the outline of the terms to be imposed became more definite; they were assured of sympathy by the greater part of the Hindu press. No prosecution was instituted under the Naval and Military News (Emergency) Ordinance. One book, three pamphlets, four leaflets and two issues of a newspaper were forfeited. The security of one press was forfeited; an appeal against the order of forfeiture was dismissed by the High Court. Security was demanded from 9 newspapers and 33 presses. Of these, only 4 papers and 28 presses furnished security. The appointment of General Press Censor ceased to exist at the end of February 1919, but that of Special Muhammadan Press Censor continued. **Working of the Naval and Military News (Emergency) Ordinance, 1914, and the Indian Press Act, 1910.**

580. The Reforms scheme was, as before, the main topic of political discussion. The extremist and moderate sections maintained the rival positions they had taken up in the previous year, but the impression was fostered that reactionary forces at home and European influences in India would succeed in whittling down the original scheme. **Topics discussed in the Press.**

The interest displayed by Indian papers in the progress of the war was sustained when the peace terms came under discussion. They wrote a considerable amount on the subject of the liberties of dependent nations, applying their conclusions more especially to Egypt, India and Ireland. The administration of the Defence of India Act was subjected to the usual criticism. The official *communiqué* issued in the middle of the year announcing a general amnesty to prisoners in token of the signature of the peace treaty was acclaimed, but the scale of remission prescribed by Government was considered illiberal. The Rowlatt legislation was unitedly attacked by the Indian papers, who misrepresented its objects and its probable effects upon the country. The adoption of *satyagraha* as a means of securing political easements was generally opposed by the moderate papers, but all claimed the actual celebration of *Satyagraha* day as a triumph for the people. The unrest which the movement created and the disturbances which followed it, however, worked a change, and even papers which originally supported the movement recanted. Wide satisfaction was expressed in the moderate press at the appointment of Lord Sinha as Under-Secretary of State for India and his elevation to the British peerage.

There were sustained complaints in the Indian papers regarding the economic situation, the high prices of cloth and rice being put down to causes which Government could remove, if it cared to take action. Of the other subjects to which prominence was given, the most important were the disturbances in the Punjab, the riots at Delhi and Calcutta and the war with Afghanistan. Much bitter writing prevailed in connection with the disturbances.

Literary Societies.

See—

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 278—279.

Arts and Sciences.

581. There were 276 students on the rolls on 31st March 1920 against 246 in the previous year. Of these 119 belonged to the Elementary Department, 51 to the Industrial Department, 37 to the Draftsman Department, 65 to the Fine Arts Department, and 4 to the Teachers' Department. Classified according to race or creed there were 3 Christians, 14 Muhammadans, 2 Buddhists, 254 Hindus, and 3 of other communities. During the year under review the students of the Modelling section executed a number of commissions, which gave them both practice and remuneration; these commissions included the historical paintings of Government House, Delhi, which were repaired **Government School of Art, Calcutta.**

and renovated. The total direct expenditure of the school amounted during the year to Rs. 28,503 against Rs. 32,780 in the year preceding. There were 28 boarders in the attached hostel.

Government Art Gallery, Calcutta.

582. During the year under review a few examples of textile fabrics, wood carvings, metal wares and Indian paintings were purchased for the gallery. The practice of lending to the School of Art selected samples of art objects from the Art gallery, useful as examples to students, was continued during the year under review. Among the distinguished visitors to the gallery were His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay and several guests from Government House, Calcutta. The late Deputy Keeper, Mr. Ram Chandra, died on the 19th November 1919, and by his death Government have lost a faithful and valued servant.

Society of Oriental Art.

583. The Indian Society of Oriental Art has organized exhibitions in London, Paris and Calcutta. The Society received a capital grant of Rs. 12,900.

Other Schools of Art.

584. According to the returns there were 3 other Schools of Art in the Presidency with 145 pupils reading in them. In 1918-19 the corresponding figures were 3 schools and 138 pupils. The expenditure on these schools amounted during the year to Rs. 13,682 of which Rs. 2,400 was contributed by Government. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 12,683 and Rs. 1,800 respectively.

Music Schools.

585. There were four Music Schools in the district of Bankura of which the one at Bishnupore received a grant of Rs. 142 from Provincial Revenues, besides, Rs. 120 from Municipal Funds. The rest of the schools did not receive any aid from public funds, but were maintained from fees and subscriptions. The Calcutta School of Music, an institution for the study of Western music, and the School of Indian Music conducted by the Sangit Sabha received grants during the year.

Bengal Engineering College.

586. On the 31st March 1920 there were 372 students on the rolls of the Bengal Engineering College at Sibpur. Of this number 87 were in the Engineer Department, 245 in the Apprentice Department, and 40 in the Artisan Department. Classified according to race and creed there were 299 Hindus, 16 Muhammadans, 53 Christians, 2 Buddhists and 2 Parsis. The total direct expenditure of the College during the year 1919-20 amounted to Rs. 2,35,843 of which Rs. 2,05,028 came from Provincial Revenues. The total value of the work turned out in the College workshops aggregated Rs. 17,193. In 1919-20, 23 students appeared at the B. E. examination of whom 9 or 39·1 per cent. passed; 22 appeared at the I. E. examination, and 13 or 59·09 per cent. passed. During the year under review the title of the College was changed. Formerly the Civil Engineering College, it is now known as the Bengal Engineering College. Sanction of Government was accorded to the appointment of visiting lecturers as in the previous year; administrative approval of Government was also conveyed to certain structural improvements at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,32,257. The dyeing classes of the College were removed to the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore. Five Boarding stipends of Rs. 25 each were created in place of five free-studentships available for European and Anglo-Indian students of the Apprentice Department. The scheme which seeks to co-ordinate the Apprentice training in the E. B. Railway workshops with the Mechanical Engineering classes of the Bengal Engineering College, received with the approval of Government who have also sanctioned a part of the non-recurring expenditure.

Dacca School of Engineering.

587. The Dacca School of Engineering had 277 pupils on the rolls, 59 in the old Overseer classes, 63 in the new Upper Subordinate classes, 66 in the Lower Subordinate classes, 10 in the Amin class, and 79 in the Artisan Department. The total direct expenditure on the institution amounted to Rs.61,560 towards which Provincial Revenues contributed Rs. 50,273. The total value of the work turned out was Rs. 2,777 for outside work, and Rs. 3,535 for work done to the school hostels and workshop. During the year under report the school and the attached workshop were removed to the building formerly used as the Secretariat Press, and the designation of the Head of the institution was changed from "Head Master" to "Principal."

A scheme for opening a 2nd year Amin class was submitted to Government. The system of crediting each artisan student with one-half share of the profit made on his work was introduced during the year with satisfactory results. The school sent a large variety of exhibits to exhibitions held at Calcutta and Dacca.

Mining instruction in the coal fields.

588. There were two centres for mining instruction in the coal fields. Government are now considering the advisability of improving the mining classes at these centres independently of the Mining Association and the Mining Federation. In the Mining Department of the Bengal Engineering College out of 14 students who entered on the final year's course 12 were awarded diplomas. In the Junior year 16 out of 24 were permitted to sit for the examination, and 13 qualified for promotion to the final year. There were 4 special students studying during the period; 33 students entered the preliminary class, of whom 27 were promoted.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

589. The short-term training classes at Dacca and Sibpur continued during the year under review. Out of 14 registered candidates, only 5 passed in 1920. A revised scheme was formulated by the Director of Surveys for the delivery of a course of lectures on Survey maps and records for the benefit of pleaders and law students. These lectures are to be controlled by the University of Calcutta.

Survey Education.

590. The number of candidates that appeared at the Amin examination held in 1919 was 43 of whom 27 passed. Orders were issued by Government during the year under review transferring the control of the Mainamati Survey School from the Director of Surveys, Bengal, to the Education Department. The school trains a few kanungos besides regular students. At the final examination 45 students passed out of 48. The total direct expenditure on the school amounted to Rs. 10,000 to which Provincial Revenues contributed Rs. 7,921.

Joint Technical Examination Board.

591. In the Overseer examination held in March 1920, 36 candidates passed out of 56 who actually appeared, or 64·3 per cent., against 81·7 per cent. in the previous year. In the Sub-Overseer examination, which was held for the last time, 46 candidates passed out of 77, or 59·7 per cent. against 53·9 per cent. in the previous year. In the new Lower Subordinate examination which is to take the place of the old Sub-Overseer examination 29 passed out of 50, or 58 per cent. The figures in this paragraph include the candidates from Bihar and Orissa.

City and Guilds of London Institute Examination.

592. During the year under review 35 candidates passed—25 in textile and 10 in non-textile subjects; 24 women passed the examination in domestic subjects held at Calcutta and Kurseong.

Serampore Government Weaving Institute and outlying centres.

593. There were 50 students under training in the higher classes of the Institute. In the Artisan class the number was 92 out of which 53 passed. Block printing was introduced during the year under review with good results. It has been proposed to remove the Institute from Serampore to Lillooah. The total direct expenditure on the Institute amounted to Rs. 26,464 of which Rs. 25,952 came from Provincial Revenues.

At the Pabna Weaving Institute the expenditure from Provincial Revenues amounted to Rs. 1,554, at Tangail Rs. 1,962, at Malda Rs. 2,048, at Bankura Rs. 1,813, and at Cox's Bazar Rs. 1.194. The number of pupils under training in these schools was 25, 20, 27, 22 and 9, respectively. It is in contemplation to close the centre at Cox's Bazar and to open new centres at Zorabganj and Chaumohani.

Rangamati Industrial School.

594. The opening, as an experimental measure for three years, of an industrial school at Rangamati was sanctioned by Government during the year under review. The initial and recurring cost of the school has been estimated at Rs. 6,149 and Rs. 3,840 a year respectively.

Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

595. The number of pupils in the day and evening classes on the 31st March 1920 totalled 184. The school was removed to more spacious premises during the year under review. Two additional lecturers, besides an instructor in typewriting, were appointed to cope with the increased teaching work

in English, Book-keeping and Geography. At the final examination 7 candidates passed out of 10, and at special examination 31 out of 43. Out of 150 candidates who appeared from affiliated institutions 54 were successful. The total direct expenditure on the Institute amounted to Rs. 28,027.

"B" classes.

596. At the final examination of the "B" classes held in 1920, 19 candidates or 43·2 per cent. passed out of 44. The corresponding figures for 1919 were 44 and 24 respectively.

State Technical Scholarship.

597. The State Technical Scholarship of the value of £150 a year was awarded to Mr. Apurba Kumar Sen for training in Industrial Chemistry with special reference to paper manufacture.

CHAPTER VIII.—Archæology.

Archæology.

[Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, for 1919-20].

Establishment.

598. Mr. K. N. Dikshit continued to officiate as Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, until 1st September 1919, when he was succeeded by Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahui. Mr. H. Panday was the Assistant Superintendent of the Circle for the major portion of the year.

Monuments and antiquities.

599. During the year, conservation work was done to the Ichai Ghosh temple at Gourangpur, in the district of Burdwan, the mounting of the Dalinadal gun at Vishnupur, in the district of Bankura, was undertaken and completed, the Hossain Dalan and Kutub mosque in Eastern Bengal which suffered during the earthquake and cyclone of 1918 were put in order and the repairs to the historical monuments in the district of Murshidabad undertaken last year were completed. The total expenditure on conservation work during the year amounted to Rs. 13,674.

During the year under review no addition was made to the list of monuments declared to be protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 (Act VII of 1904).

Four new finds of coins were reported during the year. In three cases acquisition was recommended as the coins were of historical interest.

Working of the Treasure Trove Act, VI of 1878.

600. Two new finds of Treasure Trove not consisting of coins were reported, including two stone images of Vishnu which were discovered at Falta in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas.

CHAPTER IX—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See —

General Administration Report for the year 1911-12, Part II, page 282.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

601. The Ecclesiastical Establishment in Bengal during the year 1919-20, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 11 Chaplains of the Church of England, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 10 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., and 4 Priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner's Department for the year 1919. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

General.

602. Rai Chuni Lal Bose Bahadur continued to hold charge of the department throughout the year during the absence on military duty of Lieutenant-Colonel F. N. Windsor, I.M.S.

Total of cases.

603. The total number of analysis performed increased from 3,016 to 3,687. Forty samples of *ghee* were received for analysis and, of these, 33 were found to be unfit for human consumption. Of the 44 samples of mustard oil, 31 samples were adulterated with deleterious oils containing hydrocyanic acid.

Medico-legal work.

604. In the Medico-legal Department 1,598 cases were examined or 242 more than in 1918. The total number of articles examined in this department was 2,936, as compared with 2,510 in the previous year. Viscera of 707 persons were examined; the percentage of detection in human poisoning cases was 44·58, as compared with 38·88 in the previous year. In cattle poisoning cases, the percentage of detection increased from 59·77 in 1918 to 61·89 in 1919.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1919-20.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

605. The number of students at the Bengal Veterinary College at the end of the session was 158, of which number 64 belonged to Bengal, 56 to Bihar and Orissa and the rest to other provinces. Owing to 14 students leaving the College, there was a slight fall in the number of students, as compared with the preceding year's figures, which was 165. During the year 32 students graduated from the College, of whom nine belonged to Bengal. All the new graduates have been employed as veterinary assistants.

College Hospital.

606. During the year 2,447 patients were treated and 663 operations performed at the College Hospital. There were 12,994 prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, but only 337 animals were sent to the College Infirmary by the trying Magistrates.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

607. In Calcutta and its suburbs all the stables and cattle-sheds were regularly inspected. Glanders and farcy were detected in 30 stables and surra in 2, against 13 and 4, respectively, in the previous year. In the mufassal 7 deaths from glanders were reported as against 17 in the previous year.

Civil Veterinary Department.

608. In the year under review there was a small decrease in the mortality of animals from contagious diseases, the total number of deaths reported being 14,898 as against 15,569 in the previous year. There was, however, a noticeable increase in mortality from rinderpest, the number of deaths from which was 12,178, as against 10,772 in the previous year. This increase is primarily due to heavy outbreaks in the Tippera district. There were in all 537 outbreaks of rinderpest, hæmorrhagic septicæmia, and anthrax and 84,896 animals were inoculated as against 67,083 animals in 426 outbreaks in the previous year. The death-rate amongst the inoculated was only ·4 for the whole province; on the other hand seventeen times as many uninoculated animals died during the outbreaks. Leaflets dealing with the prevention and treatment of cattle diseases were freely distributed. Steps have also been taken to improve the agency for reporting outbreaks. The itinerant veterinary assistants visited 12,831 villages and treated 58,761 animals as against 13,462 villages and 58,025 animals in the previous year.

Dispensaries.

609. Four new dispensaries were established at Balurghat, Nilphamari, Patuakhali and Brahmanbaria during the year, thus bringing the total number of such institutions up to 35, whilst it is satisfactory to note that other dispensaries are under contemplation. The number of patients treated at these dispensaries was 44,747 as against 43,312 in the previous year.

Breeding of Cattle.

610. The number of stud bulls kept by Government and local bodies increased from 104 in the previous year to 124 in the year under report. Of these 57 are the property of local bodies. A record is now being kept by the veterinary assistants of the services of stud bulls and of their results.

Veterinary sub-committees

611. Veterinary sub-committees were appointed by District Boards in some districts: the scheme will be tried throughout the province in the current year.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

612. Important diagnostic work was done in this laboratory during the year. After *post mortem* the brains of 126 animals suspected of rabies (of which number 96 showed negri bodies) and 263 pathological specimens were microscopically examined and reported on.

Samples of bonemeal intended for export to New Zealand from Calcutta were examined for anthrax or other pathogenic organisms.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1919-20.]

Finance and statistics.

613. The financial condition of the garden was on the whole satisfactory, in spite of the high cost of food-grains and of building materials. The entrance receipts amounted to Rs. 54,524-2, an increase of Rs. 6,034-2 over those of the previous year. Including the Government contribution of Rs. 20,000, the total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,31,622-10 and the total expenditure to Rs. 84,983-12-3, leaving a surplus of Rs. 46,638-13-9. During the year 715,039 persons, or 79,542 more than in the previous year, visited the garden. The number of mammals, birds and reptiles in the garden at the close of the year was 294, 1,919 and 183, respectively, against 299, 1,944 and 171 at the close of the previous year. The garden was, as usual, open free to the public one day in each month, and 35,674 persons availed themselves of the concession.

After effects of War.

Hostile aliens.

614. There was no change in the policy concerning the treatment of hostile aliens in Bengal. In December 1919 such of the German and Austrian *détenus* who were not exempted were repatriated by the S.S. *Main;* those exempted were released, and the Takdah camp was closed.

War with Afghanistan.

615. The outbreak of hostilities with Afghanistan created no appreciable excitement. Orders were issued under the Foreigners' Ordinance directing Afghan subjects to register themselves before the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate of Howrah or the 24-Parganas, and to obtain the permission of the same officer before moving out of his jurisdiction.

Peace celebrations.

616. The formal public announcement of peace was made on the 19th July 1919, the date fixed for the celebrations in England. At each district headquarters the senior officer read out the Royal Proclamation; explained the terms of peace with Germany and made a statement regarding the release of prisoners. In November 1919 the actual peace celebrations took place. The various functions passed off quietly.

Anniversary of Armistice.

617. The two minutes' silence enjoined by His Majesty the King-Emperor to commemorate the anniversary of the Armistice was observed on the 11th November throughout Bengal. On that occasion for the space of two minutes at 11 A.M. all normal activities were completely suspended.

Royal Proclamation on Reforms.

618. The publication of the Royal Proclamation signifying assent to the Reform Bill was warmly welcomed; the grant of clemency to political offenders being a matter of particular congratulation to the politically-minded classes. The Proclamation was read by His Excellency the Governor from the steps of the Town Hall on the 24th December in the presence of leading officials of Calcutta and representative noblemen. It was also publicly read by senior officers in the districts.

Khilafat agitation.

619. A noticeable feature of the period under review was the uneasiness displayed in Moslem circles as to the fate of Turkey and the Khilafat. To mark their protest a *hartal* was observed on the 17th October 1919 in Calcutta and in a number of places in the districts. The day passed off without disturbance.

Bengal Employment and Labour Board.

620. The Bengal Employment and Labour Board, which was started in January 1919 to deal with the resettlement in civil life of Anglo-Indian and European officers discharged from war service, also assisted discharged Bengali soldiers in finding employment. Acting as an Employment Bureau it secured appointments for 392 persons, of which 367 were Government appointments. The Board was dissolved on the 31st March 1920, but its activities so far as the Bengali soldiers are concerned were continued by the Political Department of the Government of Bengal.

Indian Defence Force.

621. The future of the European branch of the Indian Defence Force, the Bengal Light Horse and of the other units of the Indian branch of the Indian Defence Force were at the end of the year still awaiting final decision. Training, however, continued, but not in an intensified form.

B. S. Press—23-2-1922—2674J—650—C. G

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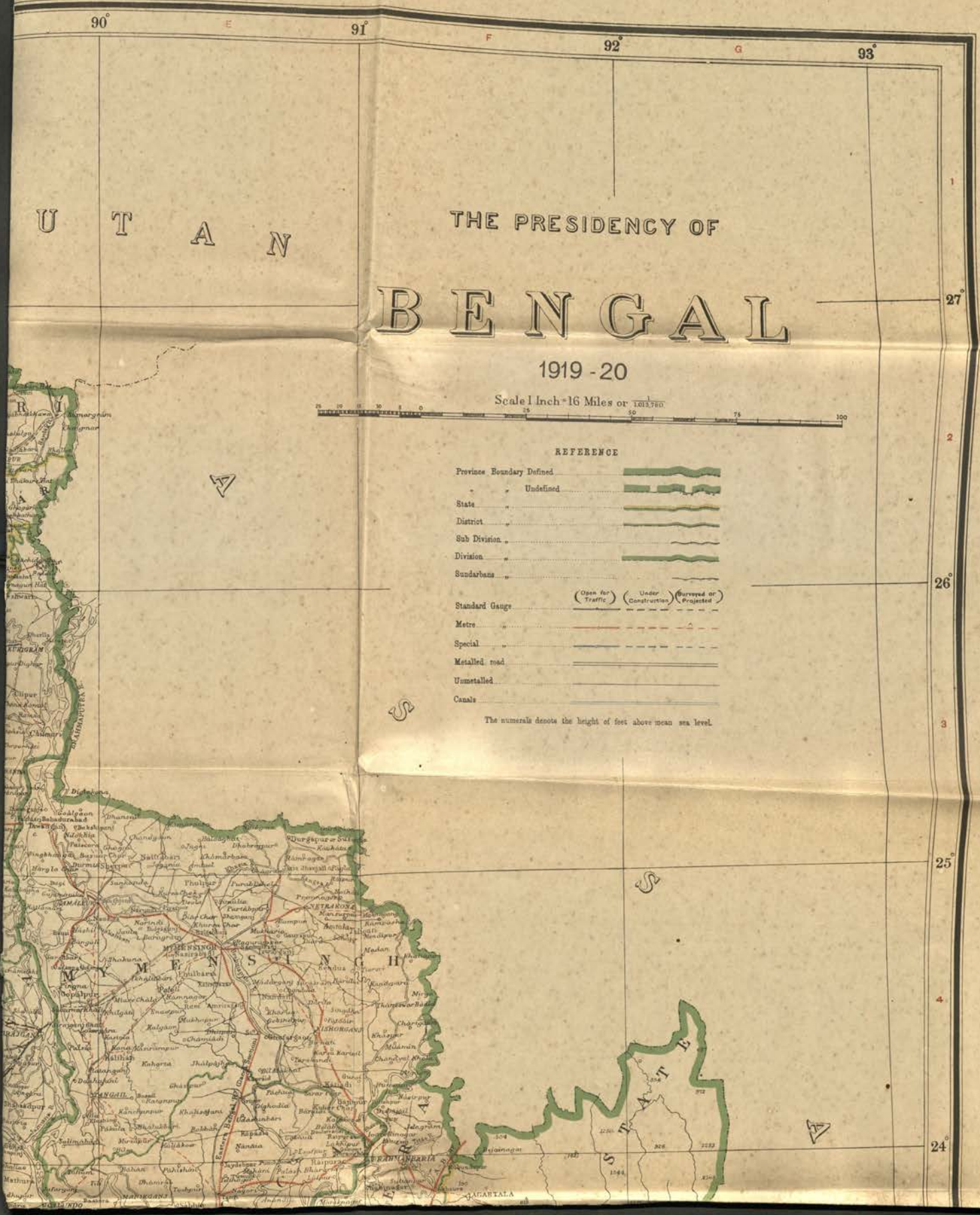
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(Open for Traffic)
(Under Construction)
(Surveyed or Projected)
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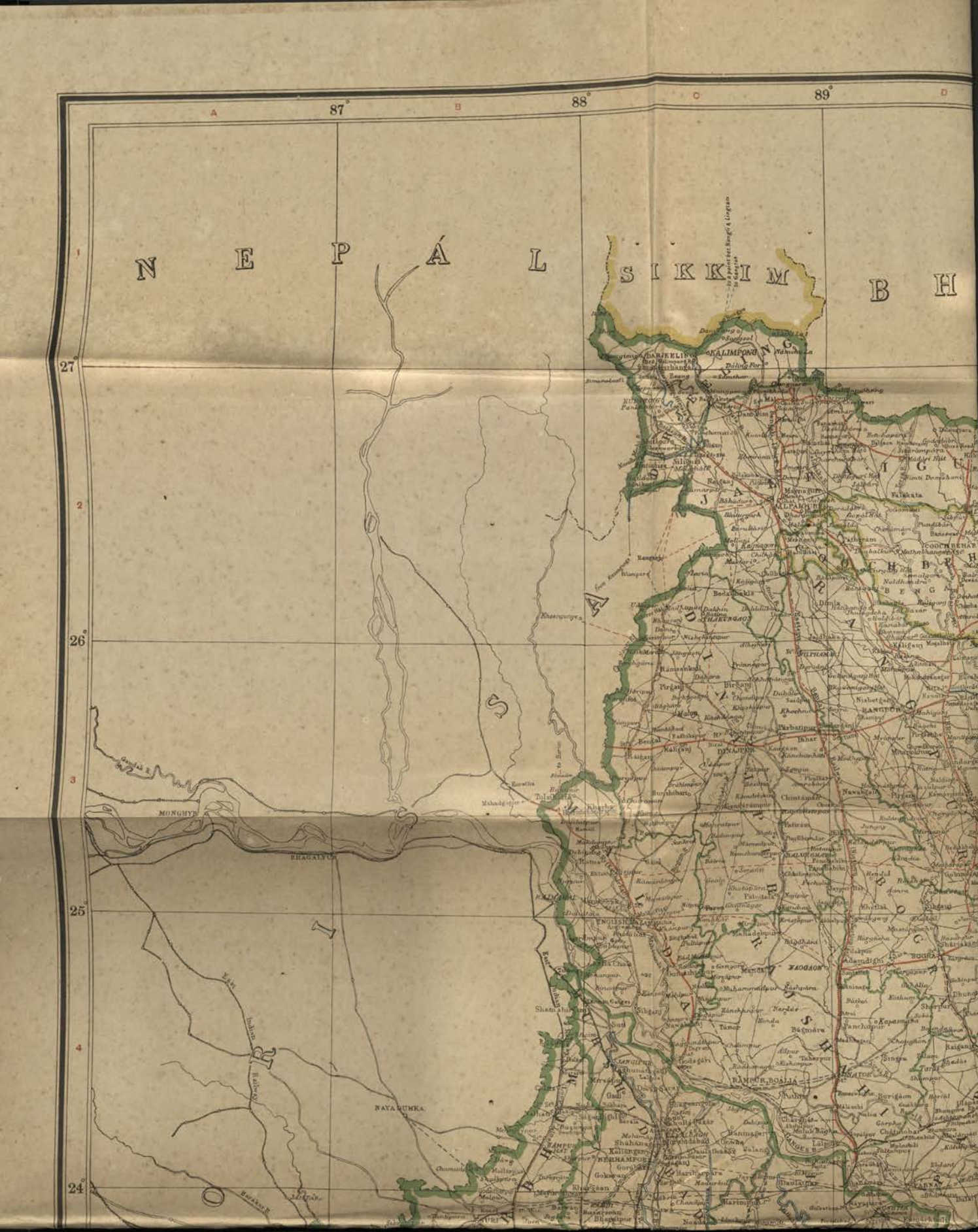
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Karatoya R.
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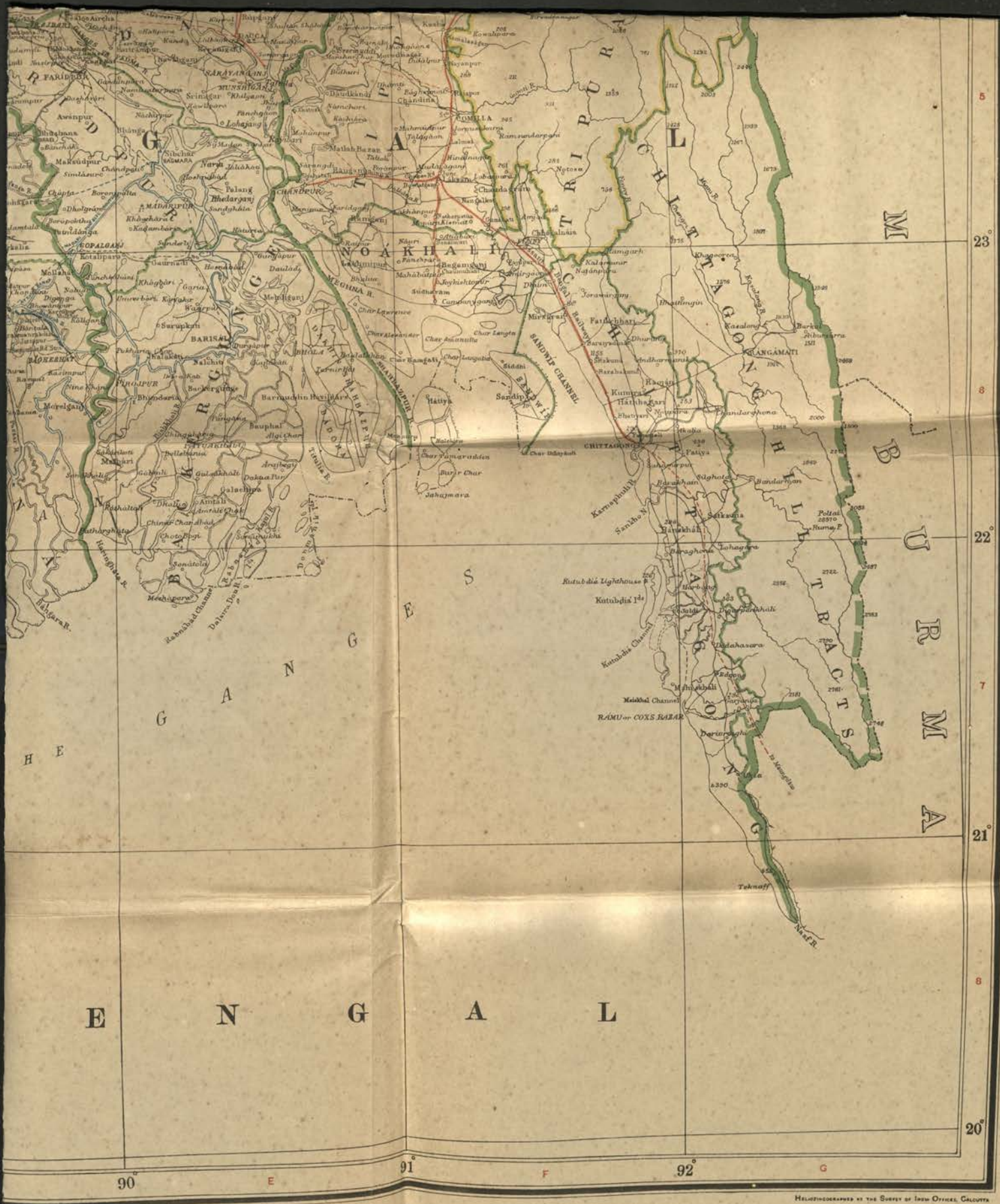
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MADARIPUR
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MUNSHIGANJ
BRAHMANBARIA
CHITTAGONG
Sandwip Channel
Meghna R.
Kutubdia Lighthouse
Kutubdia Ids
Kutubdia Channel
Matabhal Channel
RAMU or COXS BAZAR
Teknaff
Naaf R.
Hatiya
Sandwip
Jahajmara
Char Alexander
Char Lawrence
Char Ramgati
Char Tamaruddin
Burir Char
Char Bhairab
Char Ananulla
Char Lengta
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Char Udaykath
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Faridchhari
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Hathazari
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Chandpur
Ramganj
Begamganj
Sonaimuri
Jorawarganj
Dhalmingin
Kaptai
Rangamati
Barkal
Kasalong R.
Karnaphuli R.
Sangu R.
Matamuhuri R.
Bay of Bengal
Meghna R.
Dakatia R.
Tetulia R.
Baleshwar R.
Rabnabad Channel
Dalarr-Doa R.
Haringhata R.
Halsagara R.
Kalagachia
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Dashmina
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Lalmohan
Tazumuddin
Daulatkhan
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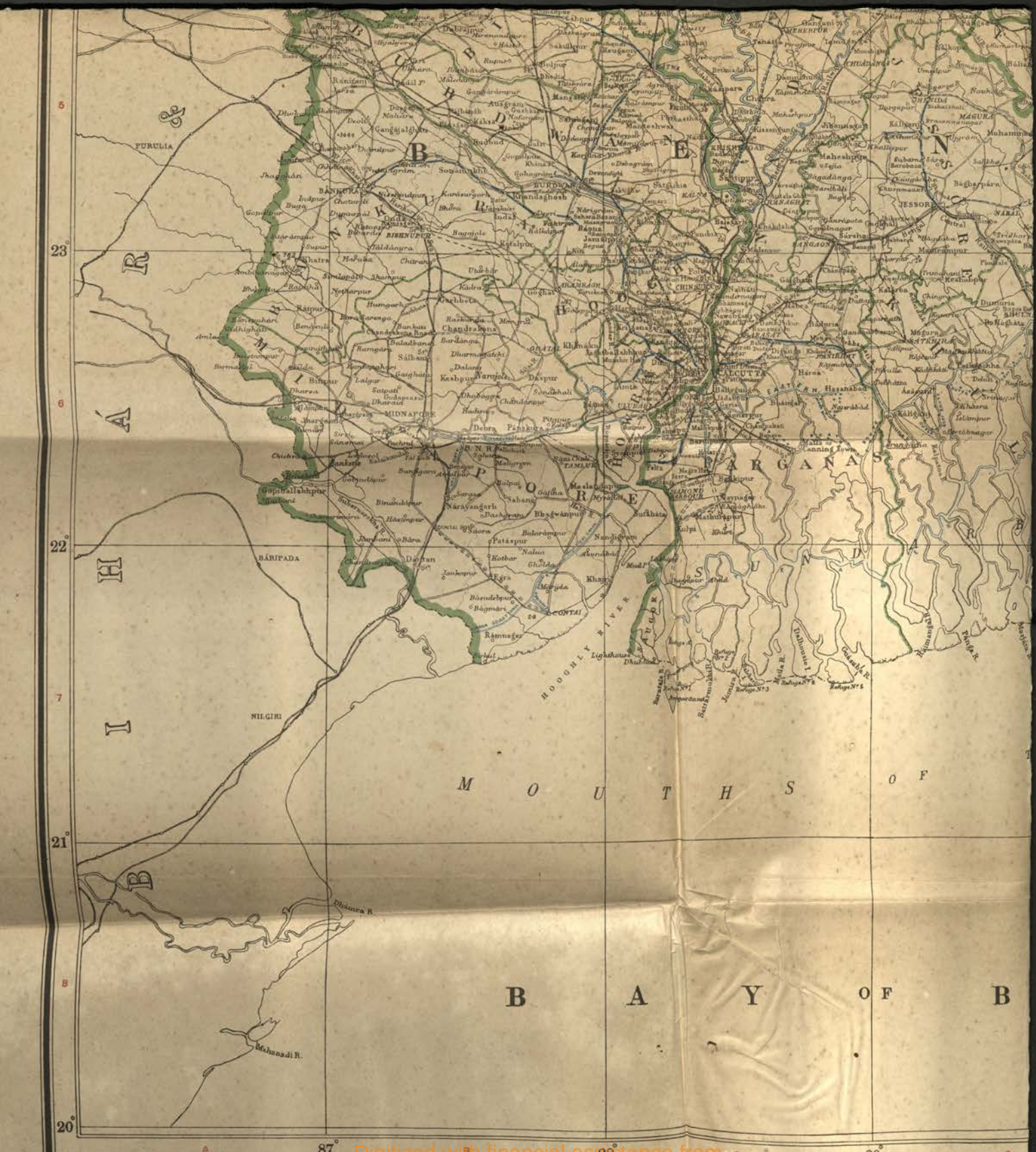
Chittagong
Patiya
Sitakund
Mirsarai
Faridchhari
Hathazari
Kumira



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NOTE.—The longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich meridian, taking that of Madras observatory as 80°-17'-21" East. They require a correction of —2·27" to make them accord with the most recent value of the geodetic longitude of that observatory, *viz.*, 80°-14'-54".

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